YUUKI KODAMA
4
BLOOD LAD

I'LL MAKE SURE ...
...TO KILL YOU!
DORODORO (RRRUMBLE)
HE'S TOTALLY LOST IT NOW...
THAT JACK-ASS ...
.....

BLOOD LAD

CHAPTER 16 ♠ THAT'S THE IMPORTANT THING

CHAPTER 16 ♠ THAT'S THE IMPORTANT THING

CONTENTS

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IT SEEMS YOU'VE FINALLY FOUND THE WILL FOR A REAL FIGHT.
I SEE.
AND SINCE YOU HAVE...
ZUBU (SPLORCH)
WHAT AMAZING POWER.
...I'VE FOUND THAT I HAVE...
MICHI
MICHI (CREAK)
...A REAL APPETITE.
GUBA (GAPE)

OH CRAP. NOW THE MONSTER'S TRANSFORMED INTO A REAL MONSTER...

.....

GROSS...

NO...

NO... HE AIN'T THE ONE WHO REALLY BECAME A MONSTER...

...SHOW ONE ANOTHER WHAT WE'VE GOT?

DO

SO... WHY DON'T WE BOTH ...

DO (DMM)

DO
SO... WHY DON'T WE BOTH ...
DO
DO
DO
DO (DMM)

OH CRAP. NOW THE MONSTER'S TRANSFORMED INTO A REAL MONSTER...
.....
GROSS...
NO... HE AIN'T THE ONE WHO REALLY BECAME A MONSTER...
NO...

...SHOW ONE ANOTHER WHAT WE'VE GOT?

FUH FU FU...
HA HA HA...
BROTH-ER...?
AH, LIZ...
YOU'VE COME AT A GOOD TIME.
...YOU BOUGHT ANOTHER NEW CRYSTAL BALL?
YES.
THESE DAYS ONE REALLY MUST HAVE A BIG SCREEN, YOU KNOW.
HOW MUCH DID THAT COST?
WELL, THAT DOESN'T MATTER NOW.
BROTH-ER...
YOU SHOULD SEE THIS TOO.
ARE YOU... WATCHING STAZ...?
THAT'S RIGHT... IT'S GOING JUST AS I THOUGHT.
THAT "THING" HAS WHAT HE WAS LACK-ING...

STAZ NEVER WANTED POWER.
AND WHY NOT ...?
BECAUSE HE HAD NO OPPONENTS ...
NO ONE TO CLASH AGAINST WITH ALL HIS MIGHT AND FORCE TO THE GROUND...
...NONE CLEARLY DEFINED ...
...AS HIS ENEMY.
THAT IS TO SAY...
.....
NOW, LIZ.
PAY ATTENTION AND TAKE A GOOD LOOK.
THIS IS THE FORM... THAT IS...

OH CRAP. NOW THE MONSTER'S TRANSFORMED INTO A REAL MONSTER...

.....

GROSS...

NO...

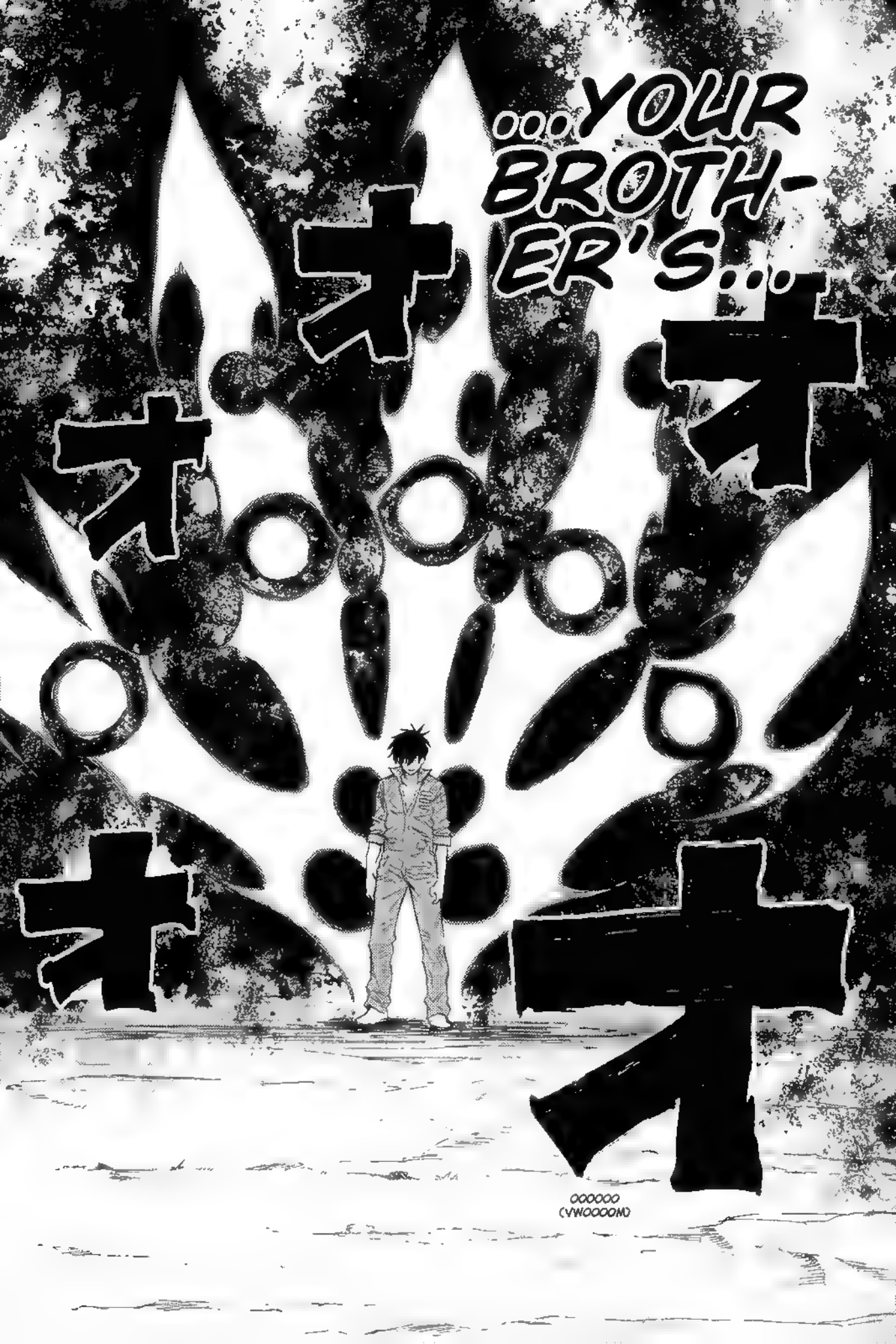
NO... HE AIN'T THE ONE WHO REALLY BECAME A MONSTER...

...SHOW ONE ANOTHER WHAT WE'VE GOT?

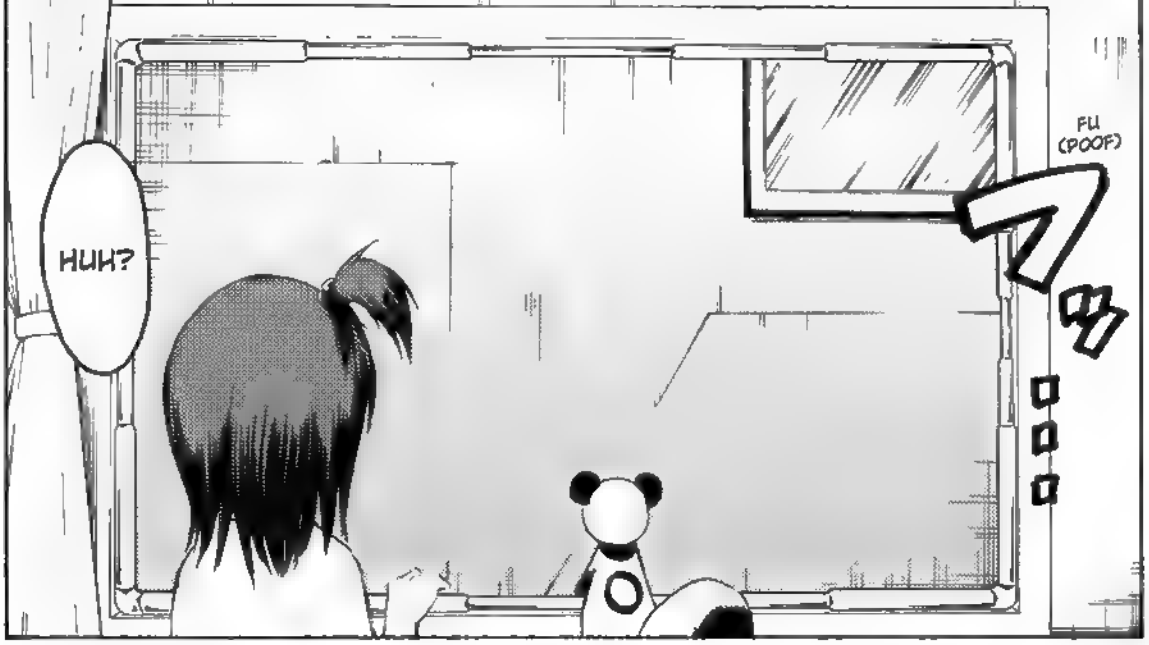
DO

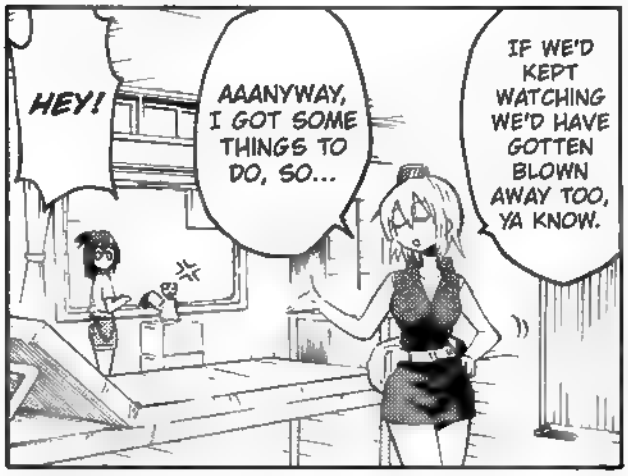
SO... WHY DON'T WE BOTH ...

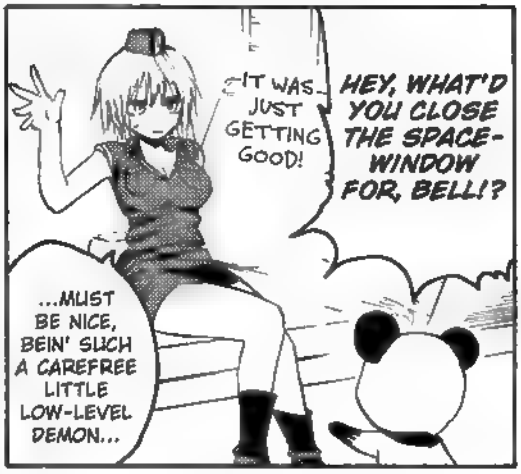
DO (DMM)


...YOUR BROTH-ER'S...
オオオオオオ
000000
(VWOOOOM)

...POWER!
HERE I COME.


HUH?
FLI (POOF)


HEY!
AAANYWAY, I GOT SOME THINGS TO DO, SO...
IF WE'D KEPT WATCHING WE'D HAVE GOTTEN BLOWN AWAY TOO, YA KNOW.


HEY, WHAT'D YOU CLOSE THE SPACE-WINDOW FOR, BELL!?
IT WAS JUST GETTING GOOD!
...MUST BE NICE, BEIN' SUCH A CAREFREE LITTLE LOW-LEVEL DEMON...

WHERE YOU RUNNIN' OFF TO?
DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT IT.
I'M GOIN' TOO.

AND I THINK I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKIN'.
I GOT SOME IDEA.
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE I'M GOING.
.....
ALL RIGHT, THEN.
DO YA, NOW?
UH-HUH...
BUT DON'T GET IN MY WAY, OKAY?
WONDER HOW THE FIGHT'S GOING...
IS THIS GONNA KEEP HAPPENING TO US?
...
SU (FWSH)

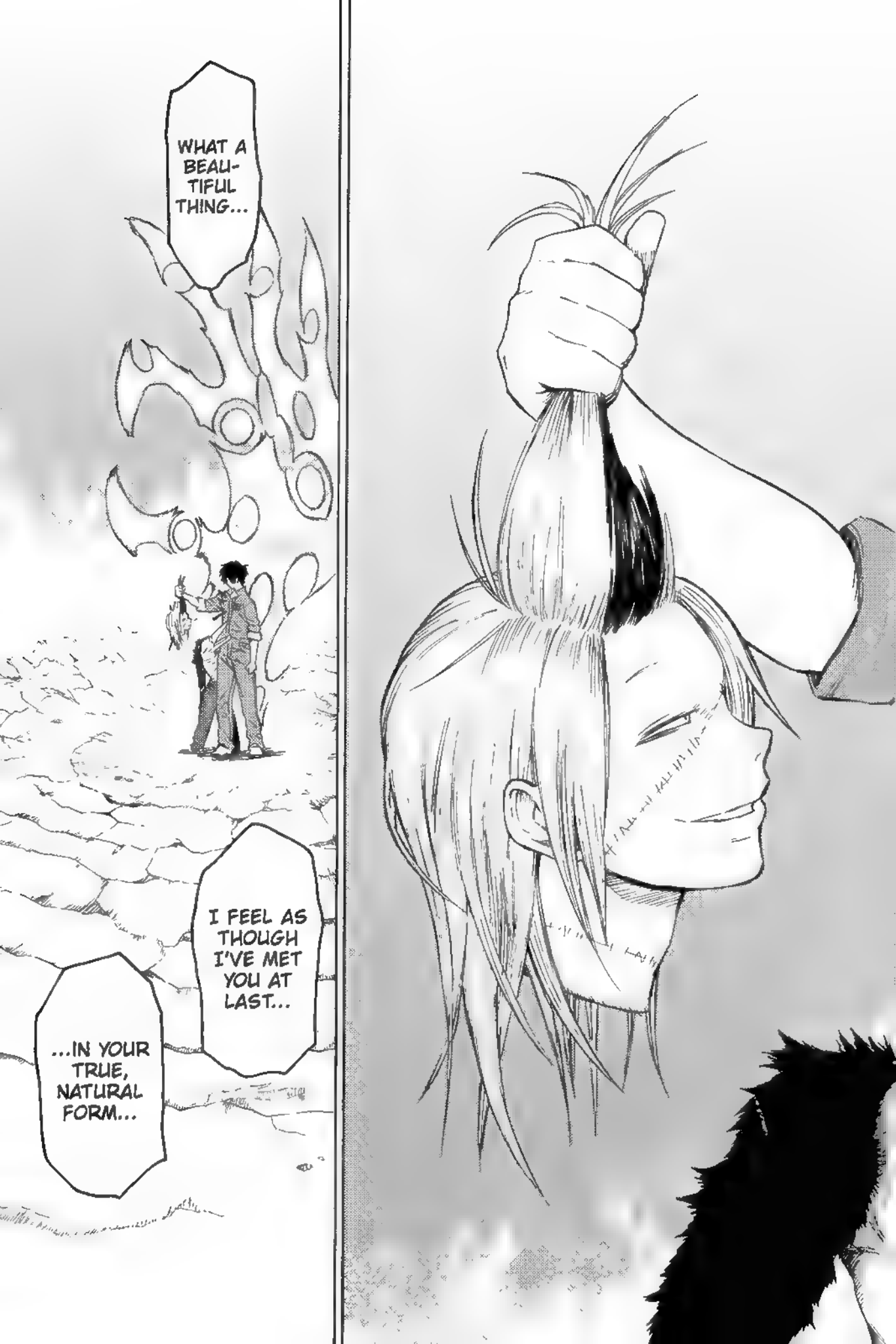
WHAT A BEAU-TIFUL THING...

I FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE MET YOU AT LAST...

...IN YOUR TRUE, NATURAL FORM...

SO, THIS IS HOW IT ENDS...

SO, THIS IS HOW IT ENDS...


WHAT A BEAU-TIFUL THING...
I FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE MET YOU AT LAST...
...IN YOUR TRUE, NATURAL FORM...

IN BUT A MO-MENT ...

R.I.P

DO (WHAM)

BLA (VWOOSH)

IN BUT A MO-MENT ...
R.I.P

DO
(WHAM)
BUA
(WOOSH)

...AND THEN PART-ED.

B·T·R PRISON

WE MET ...

AND THE OUT-COME ...

WE MET ...

...AND THEN PART-ED.
B.T.R PRISON
AND THE OUT-COME ...

オオオオ
OOOO
(WHOOO)
WELL, JUST LOOK AT ME.
IT WAS BEAUTI-FUL...

I GOT NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE BLATHERING ABOUT...
...BUT IT SURE DOES SHOW HOW MESSED UP AND CREEPY YOU ARE.

LIKE I'M GONNA LET YOU BLATHER ABOUT HOW "BEAUTIFUL" IT ALL IS AND JUST DECIDE IT'S OVER.
CAN'T YOU SEE THINGS'RE JUST GETTING STARTED?
STAND UP.
I DON'T HAVE ANY FIGHT LEFT—
YOU THINK YOU GOT A CHOICE?
UNFOR-TUNATELY, I USED UP THE LAST OF MY MAGIC WITH THAT.
MY VERY OWN ORIGINAL SUPER-AWESOME DEATH MOVE IS GONNA BE THE END OF YOU.
YOU'LL GET TO DIE IN A PATHETIC BLOODY HEAP.

HMM, I WONDER WHAT KINDA MOVE IT SHOULD BE...
LET'S END THIS BEAU-TIFULLY ...
...CLASHED WITH ALL OUR MIGHT...
WE'VE ALREADY ...
YORO (STAGGER)
BUT WHY...?
ZA (CRUNCH)

OH, I GOT IT.
MUST'VE BEEN FUN...
YOU'VE BEEN CORNERING PEOPLE THE WAY I'VE GOT YOU NOW, RIPPING THEIR LIMBS OFF...

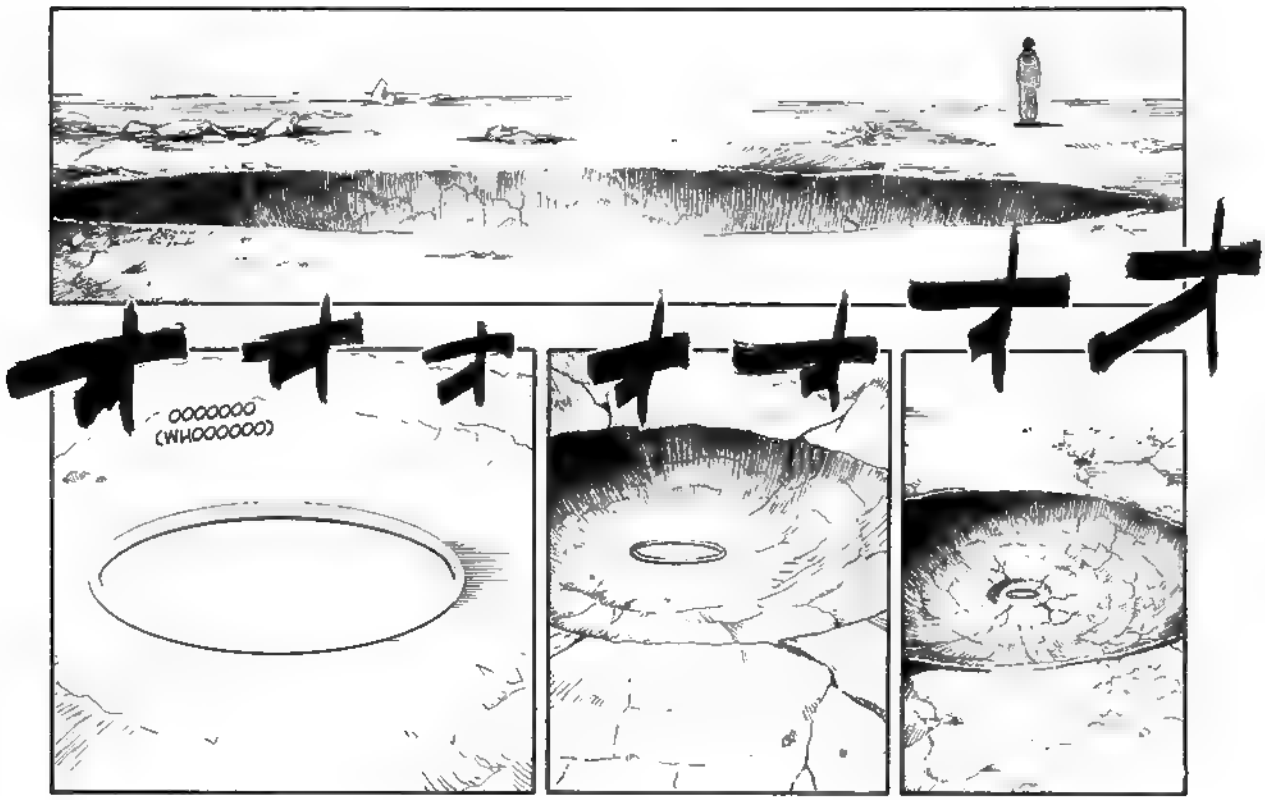
...MIGHT I ASK YOU ONE THING?
SU (SLIDE)
...
I THINK IT'D BE A PERFECT END FOR YOU.
...AND MAKE THEM EXPLODE AT YOUR HEAD. HOW'S THAT FOR A CERTAIN-DEATH MOVE?
I COULD THROW MY FRESH-PICKED BOOGERS AT YOU WITH MAGIC...
BTR PRISON

...IS POWER FOR YOU...?
BUT EXACTLY WHAT...
...POWER IS THE ESSENCE OF BEAUTY...
FOR ME...
A BURDEN.
FU (BLOW)
I SEE ...
.....
...OH WELL... I'M NOT STRIKING ANY GOLD UP HERE.
AND I'M TOO LAZY TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING ELSE...
...SO I'LL JUST GIVE YOU MY FAVORITE CERTAIN-DEATH MOVE.

SFX: GICHI (CREAK) GICHI

SFX: SURU (SLIP)

...ISN'T SUCH A BAD WAY TO MEET ONE'S END...
THIS MOVE ...
DOOON (BOOOM)
B·T·R PRISON
MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY.


OOOOOOO
(WHOOOOOO)

HEY.

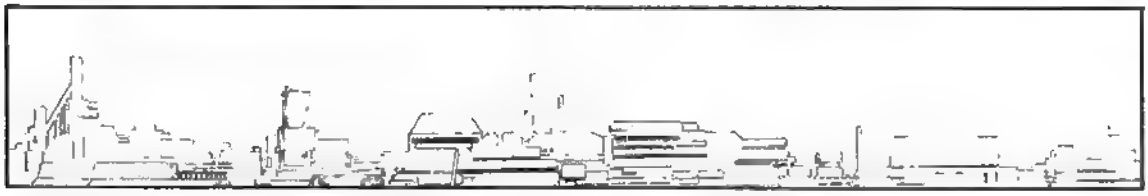
...HOW'D YOUR SUPER-AWESOME DEATH MOVE GO?
.....SO...
HEY.
SORRY TO SPRING THIS ON YOU RIGHT AFTER THAT...
...UH-HUH...
NOTHIN' SPECIAL, REALLY.
.....MEH...
...BUT I GOT A FAVOR TO ASK YOU.
PUTSUN (BZZT)
WELL...

HIS OPPONENT WAS WEAK.
DO YOU SEE YOUR BROTHER STAZ IN A NEW LIGHT NOW?
...WHAT DO YOU THINK, LIZ?
I SUPPOSE SO...
BUT NOW WE ARE ONE STEP CLOSER.
.....
STAZ IS THE ONE FOR THE JOB.
AND NOW I'M CERTAIN OF IT...
THAT DOESN'T MATTER.
I DON'T THINK HE'D WANT IT...
.....

I HAVE PLENTY OF WAYS TO CONVINCE HIM.
BASA (FLAP)
.....
MY DARLING LITTLE BROTHER ...
HE WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO OBEY ME...
WE HAVE WORK TO DO.
WELL, LIZ, SHALL WE?

チュパ
CHUPO (SUCK)
IT'S MY FIFTH ONE...
NKU
NKU (GLP)
HOW MANY IS THAT?
ONLY TWO LEFT...
WE'RE GETTING CLOSE, AREN'T WE...?
THIS IS BAD.
SHIIIT!
YES, BUT YELLING ABOUT IT WON'T SOLVE ANY-THING, WILL IT?
N-NOW, NOW ...
DON'T "NOW, NOW" ME! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GONNA DISAPPEAR! DO YOU EVEN GET THAT!?
GAH! WE'RE RUNNIN' OUTTA TIME HERE! WHAT THE HELL ARE THOSE GUYS DOING!?

...THAT EVERYONE'S DOING SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
I'M SURE ...
POFU (PAT)



SO IF YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH, I WON'T HOLD BACK.
MY GOAL IS TO REVIVE FUYUMI.

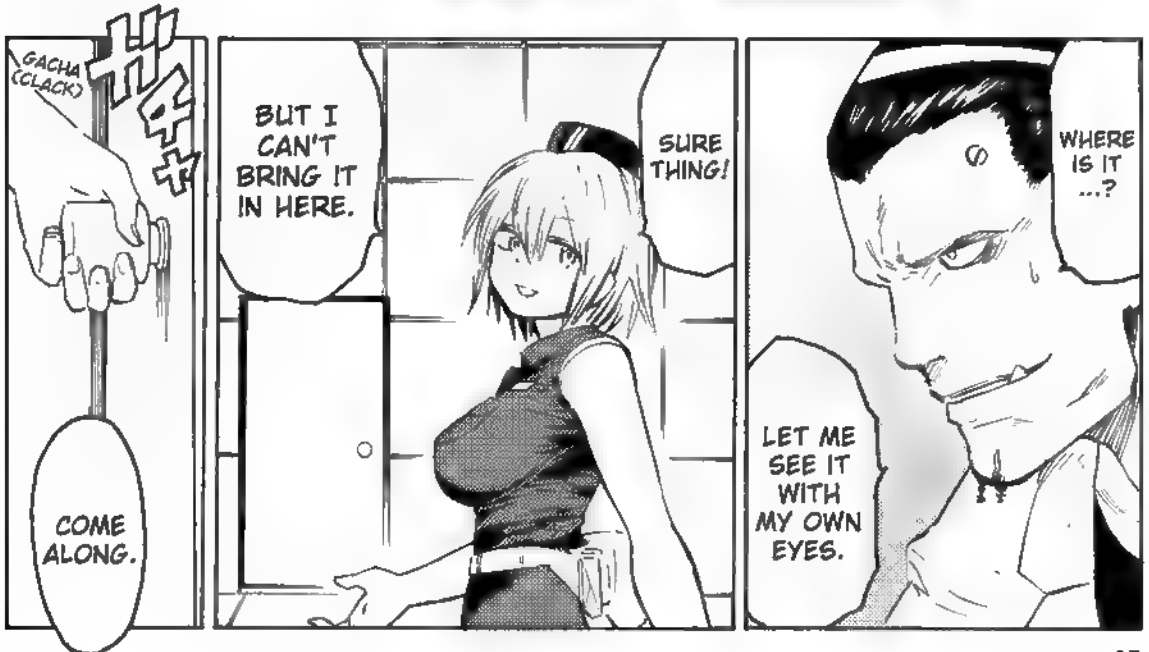
SURE ENOUGH, IT'S THE TRUTH.
IN A FEW MORE HOURS, SHE'LL DISAPPEAR COMPLETELY.
AND IT'S YOUR FAULT.
YOU GET IT, DON'T YOU?
IT'S THE WAY I AM.
...WITH FUYUMI AT STAKE?
OKAY, BUT WHY ARE YOU SAYIN' YOU WANNA FIGHT ME AGAIN...
B.T.R
PRISON

CAN'T FEEL AT EASE...
...TILL I'VE SETTLED THINGS GOOD AND PROPER.
OOO (WHOOO)

.....
WELL
...
...I GUESS NEITHER OF US GOT MUCH LOGIC TO OUR MOTIVES, HUH?
LET'S DO THIS.

I GOT THE GOODS.
WAKEY-WAKEY.

WOULD I COME ALL THE WAY IN HERE TO MESS WITH YOU?
... YOU'RE KID-DING, RIGHT?


GACHA (CLACK)
COME ALONG.
BUT I CAN'T BRING IT IN HERE.
SURE THING!
WHERE IS IT ...?
LET ME SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES.

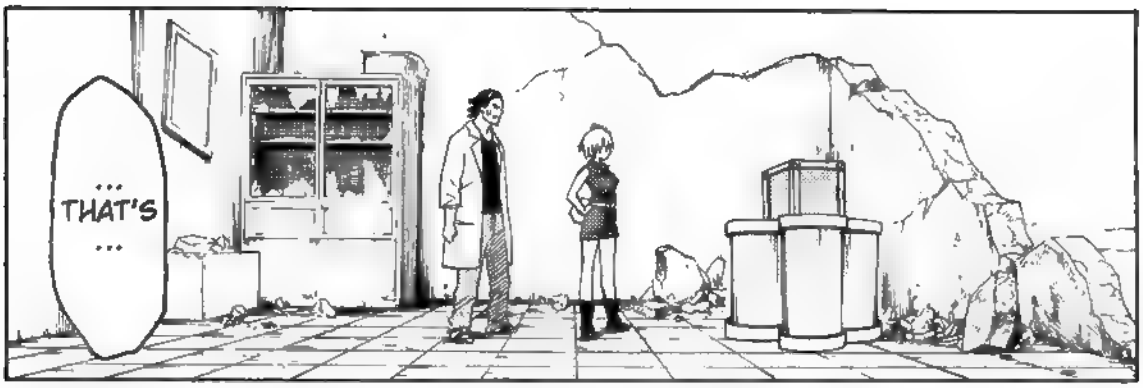
DO
DO
(DNNN)
.....
HE TRIED TO MAKE A RUN FOR IT WHEN I MENTIONED YOUR NAME.
DO
...AND HAD HIM RESTRAINED.
SO I BORROWED A COUPLE THINGS FROM YOUR LAB...

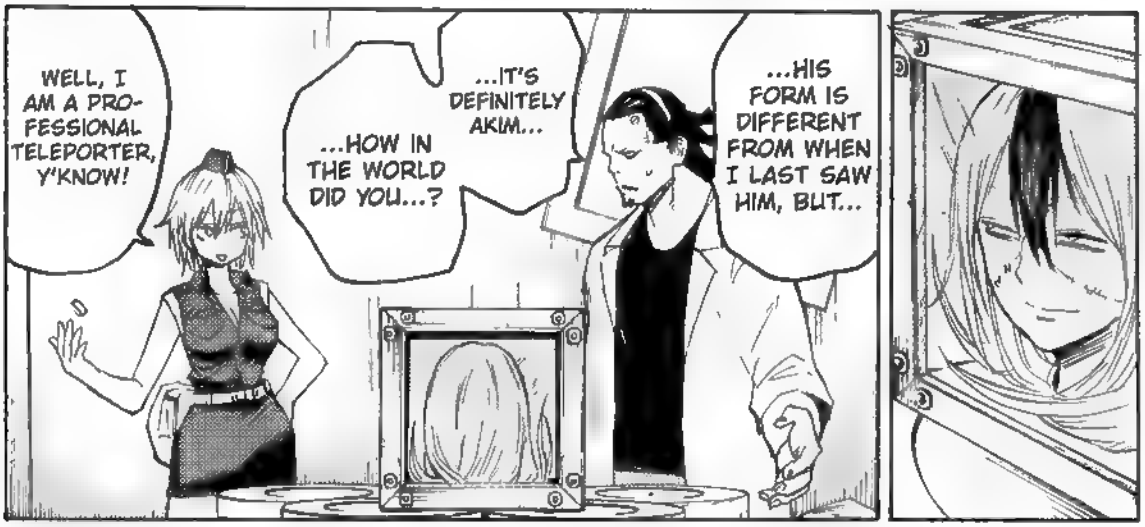
♠ To Be Continued ♠

WHAT? YOU WANT TO GO PICK A MASK FOR GOING OUT?
YOU LOOK FINE. COME ALONG QUICKLY, NOW.

BLOOD LAD

CHAPTER 17 ♠ THAT'S FRIENDSHIP


...
THAT'S
...


WELL, I AM A PROFESSIONAL TELEPORTER, Y'KNOW!
...HOW IN THE WORLD DID YOU...?
...IT'S DEFINITELY AKIM...
...HIS FORM IS DIFFERENT FROM WHEN I LAST SAW HIM, BUT...

SO I WENT OUT THERE TO CATCH HIM.
...WOULD NEVER FIGHT IN A BIG, WIDE-OPEN, EMPTY SPOT LIKE THAT.
NOW, A PRO...
AND JUST AS I THOUGHT, AKIM HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO USE THIS LITTLE TOY.
BUN (SWING)
IT LIMITS ONE'S MEANS OF MOVING ABOUT, YOU SEE.

HE PROBABLY THOUGHT HE'D JUST MADE A CLEAN GETAWAY...
DOOON (BOOOOM)
SU (SWSH)
!

COME ON IN!

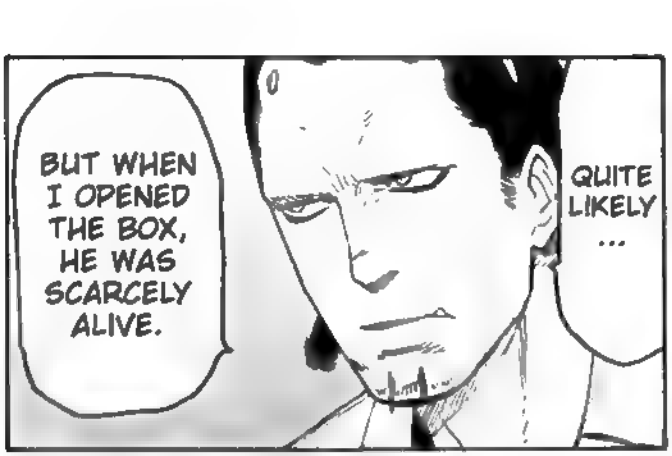
BUN (SWOOSH)
FIRST I LET HIS LOWER HALF PASS THROUGH ...
...AND I CLOSED THE WINDOW.
...THIS TECH-NIQUE IS...
...THE SAME AS MINE...
IS NOT.
MINE IS THE ORIGINAL.
YOURS IS JUST A CHEAP IMITATION.
SU (SWSH).
GOTO (CLUNK)
ゴト..
.....
AND THEN...

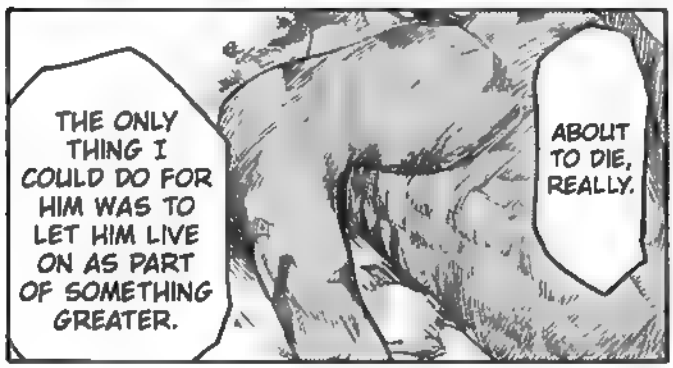
HE DOESN'T REMEMBER. HE WAS JUST ABLE TO USE IT WHEN HE GAINED CONSCIOUSNESS.
THE ANSWER:
I INTERROGATED HIM, IN MY OWN WAY.
ABOUT WHERE HE GOT THAT ABILITY.
.....
MATTER OF FACT, UNTIL HE MET ME, AKIM THOUGHT IT WAS A POWER NOBODY ELSE HAD.
.....
WHO WAS THE DEMON YOU USED TO MAKE AKIM?
SO MAYBE IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU SPIT IT OUT.
VERY WELL ...

GOPO
ゴポ
GOPO (BLOOP)
ゴポ
AT THE TIME...
...MY RESEARCH HAD REACHED AN IMPASSE.
UNLIKE HUMANS, DEMONS' BODIES DIFFER DEPENDING ON THEIR RACE.
BORO (CRUMBLE)
ボロ
SO WHATEVER I DID, THE PARTS WOULD REJECT ONE ANOTHER.
HALF AN HOUR AT MOST...
EVEN WHEN I THOUGHT THE TISSUES WERE PERFECTLY FUSED, IT NEVER LASTED LONGER THAN THAT.
THE PROJECT WAS FAR FROM COM-PLETE.
WHENEVER I THOUGHT I WAS CLOSE, THE PARTS WOULD BECOME UNSTABLE. THERE WAS NO COHESION.
THE MAIN PROBLEM ...
...WAS THE LACK OF A LEADER FOR THE PARTS...

WHO'S THIS?
ガチャ
GACHA (CLACK)
...WHEN I RECEIVED A CERTAIN PHONE CALL IN MY LAB.
IT HAD JUST HAP-PENED AGAIN...
TURURURU (RRRING)
I HAVE A PRESENT FOR YOU.
I asked who you are.
HELLO, FRANKEN-KUN. HAVE YOU BEEN A GOOD BOY?
.....
-BZT-
HEY, WHAT SORT OF PRANK IS THIS?
It's out front.
SINCE YOU'VE BEEN SUCH A GOOD BOY, HERE'S THE THING YOU WANT MOST RIGHT NOW...
FROM, SANTA CLAUS
Come take a look, and you'll know who I am too.

THAT'S EXACTLY THE FACE I MUST'VE MADE, STANDING IN FRONT OF THAT BOX.
HEH HEH ...
.....
SO WHAT WAS IT?
BUT I WONDER WHAT KIND OF FACE I WAS MAKING...
...AFTER I OPENED IT...
NO WAY...
YES. INSIDE THE BOX...
...WAS WHAT BECAME THE CORE OF AKIM...
...A MAN WHO COULD USE TELE-PORTATION MAGIC.


BUT WHEN I OPENED THE BOX, HE WAS SCARCELY ALIVE.
QUITE LIKELY ...


THE ONLY THING I COULD DO FOR HIM WAS TO LET HIM LIVE ON AS PART OF SOMETHING GREATER.
ABOUT TO DIE, REALLY.

...REBORN AS AKIM.
SO HE WAS REBORN AS THE ENGINE THAT I LACKED...

AND THAT'S ...
...THE THIEF WHO STOLE MY MAGIC...

BUT WHO COULD THAT SANTA CLAUS BE...
I DON'T KNOW.
I DON'T HAVE THE FAINTEST IDEA EITHER... BUT...
THEN WE STILL DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW ANYTHING ...
SO THAT'S ALL I KNOW ABOUT THE MAGIC THIEF.
.....
GEEZ ...
...AND MANIPULATED ME INTO USING THE BODY TO CREATE AKIM.
...WHAT WE DO KNOW IS THAT SANTA CLAUS MORTALLY WOUNDED YOUR MAGIC THIEF...
ZA (CRUNCH)
...IT'S ON TO THE NEXT MYSTERY?
JUST WHEN I THINK I'VE FIIINALLY FOUND THE MAGIC THIEF...

!
WELL, WELL ...
WHAT HAVE WE HERE ...?
IF IT ISN'T THE YOUNG LADY WHO TRANSPORTED STAZ TO THE ACROPOLIS.
WH...
WH...

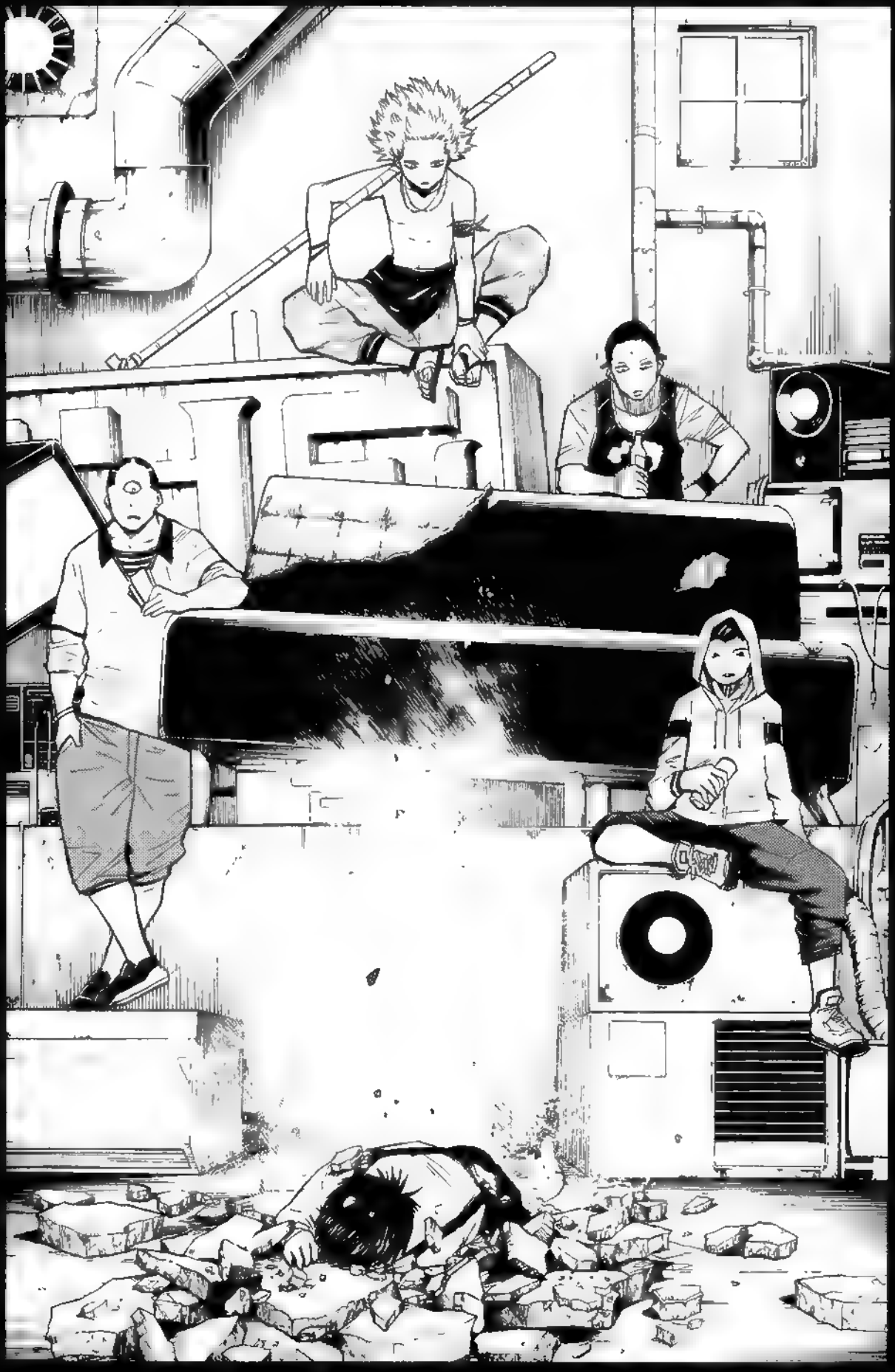
I REFRAINED FROM NOTIFYING THE AUTHORITIES ABOUT THAT.
I'M HERE REGARDING A DIFFERENT MATTER.
THERE'S NO CAUSE FOR ALARM.
HWAH!?
HOW DID YOU EVEN GET IN HERE—
OR RATHER, WHEN DID YOU ARRIVE, YOUR EMINENCE!?
HOW D'YOU KNOW THAT!? ...WAIT A SEC!
HUH!?
WAIT... PLEASE, WAIT. ...I'VE MADE A PROMISE ...
THERE'S A GHOST GIRL I HAVE TO HELP...
YOU WILL BOTH FACE JUDGMENT FOR THE MULTITUDE OF CRIMES YOU HAVE COMMITTED, DISTURBING THE PEACE OF THE DEMON WORLD.
FRANKEN STEIN AND PAPRADON AKIM.
.....
JUST TAKE THEM INTO CUSTODY FOR NOW.
NO, LIZ.
PUT THEM TO DEATH?
WELL, SADLY, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP THAT PROMISE...
AH, THAT'S RIGHT ...

LIZ...
(WHOOSH)
YES, BROTHER!
GA! (THUNK)
GOO (RUMBLE)
!
FIST: GUILTY
有罪
OOOOO (WHOOO)
GO
GO
GO
GO

ZUZUUN
(KASHOOOM)

SATIS-FIED...?
HAAH... HEH HEH...
DID YOU JUST ASK ME IF I'M SATISFIED?
B·T·R PRISON
GAHK!
HAAH! HAAH!
.....
SATIS-FIED?
...BEEN SATISFIED WITH A SINGLE DAMN THING.
I AIN'T NEVER IN MY LIFE...
'COS I DON'T SEE ANY POINT TO ANOTHER FIGHT OVER FUYUMI.
THEN WHY DO YOU FIGHT?

.....
YOU REMEMBER?
THE DAY WE MET?
YEAH... THAT TIME TOO...
GARA (CRUMBLE)
...WHEN YOU FELL FROM UP THERE.
YEAH, YOU WOULDN'T ...
YOU'VE BEEN THAT WAY FROM THE START.



HE JUST MADE A HOLE IN THE CEILING OF OUR SECRET HIDEOUT!?
WHAT THE...!? WOLF, WHO IS THAT!?
フラ○○
FURA (STAGGER)
ERR... ARE YOU OKAY!?
JUST WHAT THE HELL D'YOU THINK YOU'RE DOIN'!!?

HOLD UP.
PA
PA (PAT)
PA
THAT AIN'T THE WAY OUT.
ALL RIGHT, YOU'RE BEIN' A GOOD BOY.
ギシ
GISHI (CREAK)

SO FIRST OFF, WHO ARE YOU?
STAZ.
WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?
UP THERE.
I'M ASKIN' WHY YOU CAME HERE.
YEAH, WE GOT THAT PART.
I RAN AWAY.
I WANT TO GO TO JAPAN.
JAPAN...? IN THE HUMAN WORLD?
WHAT THE HECK YOU WANNA GO THERE FOR?
I WANT TO MEET HAYAO MIYA-ZAKI.
...WHO?
WHATEVER. ANYWAY, YOU NEED MONEY TO GET TO THE HUMAN WORLD.
YOU GOT MONEY?
フルフル
FURU
FURU (SHAKE)
THEN I'LL SHOW YA HOW TO MAKE SOME RIGHT QUICK.
.....!
HEY WOLF, YOU'RE NOT GONNA...

DON (BAM)

NO TIME LIMIT. MAGICAL ATTACKS ARE ALLOWED.

AND WE FIGHT 'TIL SOMEBODY'S ON THE GROUND.

THE RULES ARE SIMPLE.

OKAY...

...YOU WORK FOR ME AS ONE OF MY GANG.

GOT IT?

AND IF I WIN... HUH, LET'S SEE...

WAIT A MINUTE! THAT MONEY ...

...THAT'S OUR "WOLF PACK" FUNDING!

WHA ...!?

AND IF YOU WIN, I'LL GIVE YOU THIS HERE WAD O' CASH.

ARE YOU SERIOUS, WOLF!? THAT SCRAWNY LITTLE GUY'S NO MATCH FOR YOU...

THE RULES ARE SIMPLE.
ARE YOU SERIOUS, WOLF!? THAT SCRAWNY LITTLE GUY'S NO MATCH FOR YOU...
AND IF YOU WIN, I'LL GIVE YOU THIS HERE WAD O' CASH.
WHA ...!?
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...THAT'S OUR "WOLF PACK" FUNDING!

DON (BAM)
NO TIME LIMIT. MAGICAL ATTACKS ARE ALLOWED.
AND WE FIGHT 'TIL SOMEBODY'S ON THE GROUND.
OKAY...
...YOU WORK FOR ME AS ONE OF MY GANG.
GOT IT?
AND IF I WIN... HUH, LET'S SEE...

IT WAS ALWAYS LIKE THAT.
FROM THE VERY START...
...YOU NEVER DID TAKE ME SERIOUSLY.
I GIVE UP.

YOU'RE JUST BEIN' A PUNCHING BAG!
YOU'RE NOT EVEN DOIN' ANYTHING!
...HE SAYS ...
..."I GIVE UP"...
NO, HE AIN'T!!
DIDN'T WE TELL YOU? HE'S JUST A SPOILED KID!
CALM DOWN, WOLF!
THE HELL D'YOU MEAN, "I GIVE UP"!?
YOU'RE NOT FIGHTING!
YOU'RE ...
...A NOBLE DEMON!!
YOU FELL DOWN FROM "UP THERE"...
...SO I KNOW!
WHY WON'T YOU FIGHT ME FOR REAL!?
AN-SWER ME!!
AIN'T YOU!?

BECAUSE IF I DID...
...I'D KILL YOU...
"SO WHAT IF HE IS A NOBLE DEMON ...?"

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT THEN...
"I'M PLENTY STRONG," I THOUGHT ...
"THERE CAN'T BE MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE EVEN THOUGH I'M JUST A MONGREL."
BUT THAT AIN'T HOW IT IS.
GU (GRIP)
FACT IS, I WAS SO WEAK YOU HAD TO GO EASY ON ME...
...EVEN WITH MOST OF YOUR POWER SEALED AWAY.
I WASN'T EVEN WORTH ...
...YOU TURNING YOUR FULL POWER ON ME.
SO HOW THE HELL...
...WOULD I BE SATISFIED?

I'LL MAKE YOU FIGHT FOR REAL NEXT TIME.

I'LL BE BACK TO SETTLE THE SCORE.

LATER.

.....

I WON'T. NOT AGAINST YOU.

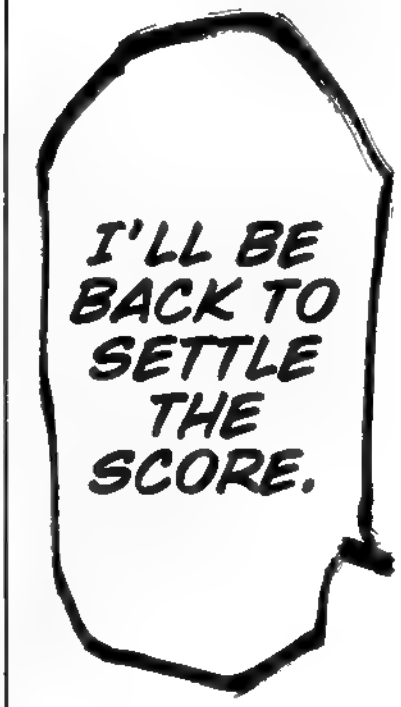
'COS YOU'RE MY FRIEND.

LATER.

I'LL MAKE YOU FIGHT FOR REAL NEXT TIME.

I WON'T. NOT AGAINST YOU.
.....

'COS YOU'RE MY FRIEND.


I'LL BE BACK TO SETTLE THE SCORE.

BROTH-ERI?
TO THINK THAT EVEN STAZ HAS A FRIEND...
パチ PACHI
パチ PACHI
パチ PACHI
PACHI (CLAP) パチ
WHA ...?
BRAVO. JUST WONDER-FUL.
...AND I'M HERE AS HER CHAP-ERONE.
IT'S LIZ'S WORK...
AND HOW'D YOU JUST APPEAR OUT OF NOWHERE!?
WH... WHAT'RE YOU DOING DOWN HERE!?
THAT DOESN'T EXPLAIN ANY-THING!!
SHUT UP!
THERE'S EVEN LESS HERE THAN I THOUGHT.
ISN'T IT, LIZ?
IT'S HER FIRST TIME DOWN HERE, YOU SEE.
B·T·R

YES, WELL ...
SHE WAS KIND ENOUGH TO BRING US HERE.
.....
WELL, IF YOU CAN'T BEAT 'EM, JOIN 'EM, I ALWAYS SAY...
UMM... YEAH.
IN ANY CASE ...
... BETWEEN HER AND THE BOY FROM BEFORE...
SO THERE YOU HAVE IT.
PURRR...
.....
IF YOU'RE DONE HERE, GO HOME ALREADY!
AAARGH... WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING...?
HE DOESN'T DESERVE THEM.
DON'T YOU THINK SO, LIZ?
YOU DO SEEM TO HAVE SOME NICE FRIENDS, STAZ.
B·T·R
PRISON

OH, WE DO HAVE SOME BUSINESS.
YOU HAVEN'T FORGOT-TEN...
...MY PROMISE TO RESURRECT YOUR HUMAN FRIEND, HAVE YOU?
BUT FIRST, I'D LIKE TO MEET THIS GIRL...
...WHOM YOU WANT TO REVIVE...
ゴク
GOKU (GULP)

♠ To Be Continued ♠

...WHICH WAY'S WEST?
COME TO THINK OF IT...
...HN?

BLOOD LAD

...WHAT'S WITH THAT, ALL OF A SUDDEN!? YOU'RE TURNING BLACK!
WHA...
I'LL BLACKLIST HIM FROM THE SHOP AND BURN ALL HIS COLLECTIONS, OH YES... HEH-HEH...
BLIN (VOOM)
OOH ...
IF THEY REALLY DON'T MAKE IT IN TIME, I'LL NEVER EVER FORGIVE STAZ...
...THIS IS IT...
SO YOU'VE COME OUT AND SAID IT, YAMIJIROU.
ZA (STEP)

NOTE: YAMI MEANS "DARKNESS" IN THIS PLAY ON MAMEJIROU'S NAME.

SFX: BURU (TREMBLE) BURU

HUH... OH YEAH, THIS.
WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S A MAGICAL ESSENCE DRINK.
THEY JUST TAGGED ALONG ...
HMM?
I DUNNO ...
WHAT'S WITH THE FAMILY REUNION!?
MAN, WAS I THIRSTY.
DOESN'T TASTE TOO GREAT, THOUGH.
WAAAH!!!!
ゴクゴク
GOKU GOKU
GOKU (GULP)
THAT'S THE LAST BOTTLE SO—
HEY!
PA (SNATCH)
NOW EXPLAINING ABOUT THE DRINK...
↑ PROFESSOR-JIROU.
DID YOU CHANGE CLASSES? NOW YOU'RE UMIJIROU THE WATER ELEMENT CREATURE?
FUYUMI'S THE SAME, THOUGH...
HUH? WHY'RE YOU ALL BLUE NOW?
B·T·R
WHAT IS WITH YOU TODAY ...?
SHUT UP, YOU IDIOT! SIT YOUR ASS DOWN AND LISTEN TO ME!!
OOH, NOW YOU'RE ALL RED. BURNING-JIROU?
WHAT THE HELL D'YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?
I AM SERIOUSLY GONNA BURN YOUR HOUSE DOWN!!

NOTE- UMI MEANS "OCEAN." STAZ IS REFERENCING THE ELEMENTAL CLASSIFICATIONS OF POKEMON, AS THE JAPANESE SAY THAT PEOPLE TURN BLUE WITH SHOCK.

...BUT HE NEVER MENTIONED ANYTHING ABOUT THE DRINK!
WELL, HE SAID FUYUMI WAS ABOUT TO DISAPPEAR ...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
NO, IT'S YOU... YOU'RE PRETTY MUCH THE CAUSE OF ALL OUR PROBLEMS, HERE.
SO IT'S WOLF'S FAULT.
WELL, HONESTLY, I DON'T SEE HOW YOU COULD MISTAKE IT FOR A NORMAL BEVERAGE ...
RIGHT?
SO CHUGGING THAT THING WAS, LIKE, TOTALLY UNDER-STANDABLE!
IF YOU DON'T INTRODUCE ME PROPERLY, I REALLY WILL SEEM LIKE THAT SORT OF PERSON, NOW, WON'T I?
NOW, NOW. THIS IS MY FIRST TIME MEETING THE GIRL.
HMPH. YOU'RE ARGUING ABOUT SOME-THING, IT SEEMS.
WHAT'S IT GOT TO DO WITH YOU?
GO OUTSIDE AND STEAL SOME PANTIES OR SOMETHING, CREEP.
OH...
YES... IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU...
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, MISS GHOST?

I'M BRAZ. MIGHT I ASK YOUR NAME?
I... I'M FUYUMI.
HEY!
WHAT A LOVELY NAME.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, MISS FUYUMI.
CHU (KISS)
OH, HEY, LOOKS LIKE I CAN GIVE YOU THAT DRINK BACK...
URP...
BO (BLUSH)
PLEASE DON'T.
... ALTHOUGH THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE MET...
...I DO KNOW A FEW THINGS ABOUT YOU...
ABOUT THE ISSUE YOU'RE DEALING WITH NOW...
...AND HOW TO TAKE CARE OF IT...

I SAID IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
GU (GRIP)
SO QUIT ACTING LIKE YOU RUN THE SHOW.
PASH! (SMACK)
...COME NOW. IS THIS NOT AN URGENT MATTER?
IF YOU WOULD ONLY ALLOW ME...
...IT WOULD BE NO PROBLEM AT ALL TO CHANGE HER BACK INTO A NORMAL GHOST.
BOK (SNAP)
VERY WELL ...
YOU ONLY WANNA DO THAT SO I OWE YOU SOMETHING.
TOO BAD. WE DON'T REQUIRE YOUR SERVICES.
GET LOST.

...WITHOUT A HELPING HAND FROM ME.
KOKIN (CRICK)
I'LL SEE HOW FAR YOU GET...
PURAN (DANGLE)
ONCE AGAIN, I'LL BEND TO YOUR WILL.
...TO SAVE HER?
JUST WHAT METHOD CAN YOU USE...
IT'S NOT A METHOD.
GARI (BITE)
I MADE A PROMISE.
NII (GRIN)
IT OUGHTA BE OBVIOUS.

...I'LL BE YOUR BLOOD BANK.
UNTIL I BRING YOU BACK TO LIFE...

UM... WAI...
C'MON.
THEN... CAN WE AT LEAST GO OVER...
JII (STARE)
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? HURRY UP.
W...WE'RE DOING THAT HERE?
WELL, I'M ALREADY BLEEDING.
B...BUT EVERYONE'S WATCHING, AND IF I DRINK IT I'LL—
JUST DRINK IT.
ZUPO (POP)
...THERE AND...
MPH!

ゴクン
GOKUN (GULP)
ドゥ
DO (MM)
HOW'S THAT?
WAY MORE MAGICAL ESSENCE THAN LAST TIME.
OH...

IF I... GET TO KNOW ...
ZU CZMMO
THIS IS NO GOOD, STAZ-SAN...
ZU
...THIS TASTE ANY BETTER ...
ZU
ZU
ZU

THAT OUGHTA LAST HER A WHILE.
.....
PUUSHUU (STEAM)
DOSA (THUD)
HUFF!
HUFF!
I CAN'T SAY I APPROVE.
KACHA (CLACK)
WELL, DUH. I WON'T KEEP DOING THAT FOREVER.
I'LL TURN HER BACK INTO A HUMAN SOON ENOUGH.
I GUESS NOT.
YOU'RE NOT ADDRESSING THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM.
IT MAY SUFFICE FOR NOW, BUT IF YOU CONTINUE WITH THIS...

.....
RIGHT, BROTHER?
THAT WAS OUR DEAL.
...WHERE YOU MET THE HUMAN FUYUMI...
IN DEMON WORLD EAST...
...AND THEN LOST HER.
I SUPPOSE SO...
WELL THEN, IT'S TIME TO GO AND MEET THE ORIGINAL GIRL.
IN THE TERRITORY OF BOSS STAZ.

SIGN: CAFÉ & BAR, THIRD EYE
サードアイ
OH-HO...
B...!?
EMPTY AS USUAL, I SEE.

WERE YOU LONELY WITHOUT ME!? WAS IT HARD!? IT'S OKAY!
WAAAH! SATYYY!!
YOU CAN CRY ON MY SHOULDER NOW!!
BOSS ...!?
WHOA, IT'S ME!
THAT'S YOSHIDA!! DID YOU FORGET, BOSS!?
OH, RIGHT. WOW, DEK, THAT'S REALLY SOMETHING.
IT'S BEEN CRAZY AROUND HERE!! CHALLENGERS FOR THE TERRITORY AND EVERYTHING!!
AHEM.
.....
WHAT ABOUT YOU, BOSS? ISN'T THAT A PRISON JUMPSUIT?
I-I WAS PRETENDING TO BE YOU, BOSS... AND, ER, I'M YOSHIDA...
HEY, TSUBOI, WHAT'RE YOU DOING WEARING MY CLOTHES?
UH ...
WHO'S THE SQUIRT? A RECRUIT?
WHA ...?
THAT'S MY LITTLE SISTER.
.....
EH, LET'S NOT WORRY ABOUT THE DETAILS...
A BEER FOR ME, SATY-CHAN!
RIGHT ...
OH, HEY!

SFX: GATA (SHAKE) GATA BURU (TREMBLE) BURU
YEAH, WELL, DETAILS ...
TO THINK STAZ SPENDS HIS TIME WITH SUCH A MANNERLESS BUNCH...
AHEM.
TO BE HONEST, I AM STRUGGLING TO HIDE MY SHOCK.
ANYWAY, LET'S DRINK UP.
DON'T THEY HAVE WINE HERE?
NOPE.
WELL... ACTUALLY, WE DO, BUT...
JII (STARE)
AREN'T YOU FORGETTING SOMETHING IMPORTANT?
RIGHT. FUYUMI'S BONES.
SORRY, DEK, BUT COULD YOU GO GET THEM?
THEY'RE ON THE TV STAND...
THE TV STAND!?
JUU (STEAM)
OOH, HERE IT COMES.
JII
?
THIS IS WHAT I NEEDED.

.....
...IS THAT EDIBLE?
IT'S TSUCHI-NOKO! WHAT, YOU'VE NEVER HAD IT?
EAT UP. IT'S MY TREAT.
.....
... WHAT IS THIS?
GA (GRAB)
W C
...I'VE BEEN HERE THE WHOLE TIME.
WHAT, BELL? YOU'RE HERE?
STAZ, CAN I BORROW YOU A MINUTE?
YOUR BROTHER ...
...HOW MUCH DOES HE KNOW?
SOME-THING STINKS.
YOU DUMMY. THAT'S NOT IT.
WHAT? CAN'T YOU GO TO THE BATHROOM BY YOUR-SELF?
YEAH, 'COS WE'RE IN A BATH-ROOM.
NOT THAT! I'M BEING SERIOUS.
WELL ...
...MAYBE HE KNOWS EVERYTHING. OR MAYBE HE'S PRETENDING TO KNOW EVERYTHING.

AND HE ONLY TELLS PEOPLE THINGS WHEN IT HELPS HIS PLANS ALONG.
NADE (PET)
ナデ
ナデ
NADE
KUN (SNIFF)
クンクン
KUN
THE ONE THING THAT'S FOR SURE IS HE'S ALWAYS GOT SOMETHING UP HIS SLEEVE.
...BEFORE WE CAME TO GET YOU...HE TOLD ME SOMETHING INTERESTING.
A WHILE AGO...
.....
...THERE'S DEFINITELY A REASON FOR IT.
SO IF HE'S TOLD YOU ANYTHING ...
ズズゥ
ZUZUUUUN (KASHOOOM)
ズズズ...
ZU (ZWM)
ZU
ZU
.....
...OH! SURE!
...WE'VE TAKEN CARE OF LIZ'S WORK.
SO WE'D LIKE TO SEE A FEW SIGHTS OF THE LOWER DEMON WORLD AND THEN HEAD HOME.
NOW ...

AT ANY RATE, THIS IS UNEXPECTED.
A PROFESSIONAL LIKE YOURSELF ...
...USING YOUR SKILLS TO HELP RESURRECT A GHOST GIRL...
HOW MIGHT I BE OF SERVICE?
KACHIIN (STIFF)
HA HA HA.
YOU DON'T NEED TO BE SO WORKED UP.
OH... NAH, THAT'S JUST...
NOTHING MUCH..
I WONDER ...
...IF YOU'VE NOTICED? HOW IMPORTANT THAT GIRL IS TO YOU...
HUH?
..... NOTHING. FORGIVE ME.
WELL, FIRST THINGS FIRST... WE'VE GOT TO GO MEET STAZ.
MIGHT I ASK FOR YOUR SERVICES?
I'LL PAY THE PROPER FARE FOR TWO PEOPLE.
OH, NO, NO! OF COURSE I'LL TAKE YOU, NO CHARGE!
.....
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

ALL THIS OTHER STUFF'S ALREADY GOT MY HEAD SPINNING! WHAT IS UP WITH YOUR BROTHER!?
I'M TALKIN' ABOUT THE PART WHERE HE SAID FUYUMIN IS IMPORTANT TO ME.
OKAY, OKAY, SORRY.
NEVER MIND THAT! I HAD NO CHOICE, DID I!?
MAN, THE DEGREE OF YOUR PITIFUL GROVELING REALLY CAME THROUGH IN THAT STORY.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKIN' ABOUT HERE!!
OKAY... WELL, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I'D DO WITH ALL THAT.
ANYWAY, WHEN FUYUMIN WAKES UP...
IF I COULD GIVE YOU ANY ADVICE IT'D BE "DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT."
.....
BASED ON MY EXPERIENCE, ACTING ON WHAT MY BROTHER SAYS ALWAYS RESULTS IN SOME ADVANTAGE TO HIM.

SFX: GOSO (RUMMAGE) GOSO

UH... HEY!
GARA (SLIDE)
AND TELL FUYUMIN IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, SHE CAN CALL ME.
W C
IT'S A BELL.
WHAT IS IT?
HOLD IT WITH YOUR FINGERTIPS AND RING IT THREE TIMES, AND YOU CAN SEE ME.
PISHA (SHUT)
W C
SEE YOU.
.....
DANG IT.
W C
.....
OH, SURE. SHE DOESN'T COME IF I'M THE ONE RINGING IT...
ISN'T THIS JUST WHAT I MEANT...
CHIRIIN (JINGLE)
CHIRIIN
CHIRIIN
PASHI (CLUTCH)
...BY ACTING BASED ON WHAT MY BROTHER SAYS?
BAS-TARD ...
WHAT'RE YOU SCHEMING NOW...?

HERE ARE THE REMAINS!!
(DOOON)
SORRY FOR THE WAIT, BOSS!!
FI-NALLY.
"FINALLY," MY ASS.
DON'T ACT ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY IN MY TER-RITORY.
ENJOY THE REST OF YOUR EVENING!
WE'LL BE LEAV-ING NOW, SIR!!
OH. THAT WAS FAST.
(KASHIIN)
KASHIIN
HEY, WHAT'S THAT? WAIT...
TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE GONNA DO FIRST!!
WELL, THEN. SHALL WE TAKE A LOOK?

THEN WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE HOLDING ...?
IT'S A DEVICE I INVENTED MYSELF.
VERY WELL. I'LL TAKE THEM AND EXTRACT HER DNA.
UH, YEAH...
ARE THESE ALL THE BONES?
FIRST, I'M GOING TO TAKE A SAMPLE.
O-OKAY...
JII (STARE)
HER CLOTHES ARE IN THE WAY.
REMOVE THEM, WOULD YOU, STAZ?
WHY ARE YOU SO WORKED UP ABOUT THIS?
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING IN FRONT OF LIZ!? YOU FRIGGIN' PERVERT!!?
NEXT, THE GIRL.
YEAH, THAT'S GREAT. I WANNA KNOW WHAT IT DOES.
HEY!
B·T·R PRISON
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME WHAT YOU'RE GONNA DO WITH THAT THING!!

AM I THAT UNTRUST-WORTHY?
.....
YOU CAN'T HAVE THOUGHT THAT I COULD PERFORM A HUMAN RESURRECTION JUST BY WAVING A MAGIC WAND OR SOMETHING.
..... WELL, NO, BUT...
AND THIS IS THAT IMPORTANT TO ME.
..... YEAH. SORRY, YOU ARE.
SO IF YOU'RE JUST DOING SOMETHING WEIRD TO FUYUMI UNDER A PRETENSE OF RESURRECTING HER...
...I WON'T EVER FORGIVE YOU. GOT THAT, BROTHER?

SIMPLY PUT, THIS DEVICE WILL TAKE A SAMPLE OF THE GIRL'S MAGIC.
I UNDER-STAND ...
...IS FOR A TEST RUN OF CONVERTING HER MAGIC INTO HER SOUL.
SO THE SAMPLE I'M GOING TO COLLECT NOW...
AND I'LL CONVERT THE MAGIC SHE HAS AS A DEMON...
FIRST, WITH HER BONES AS A FOUNDATION, I'LL MAKE THE BODY SHE NEEDS FOR THE RESURRECTION.
SUCH A CONVERSION HAS TO BE CALIBRATED BASED ON INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES, YOU SEE.
WELL? HAVE YOU HEARD ENOUGH TO TRUST ME?
...INTO WHAT THE HUMANS CALL A SOUL...
IT WILL BE A PERFECTLY-RECONSTRUCTED HUMAN BODY, RIGHT DOWN TO THE PLACEMENT OF HER MOLES.

OH GOOD, YOU'RE WAKING UP. OKAY, JUST LIFT YOUR ARMS AND CHEER.
HUH... STAZ-SA...?
WHA ...?
HUH?
GA (GRAB)
HERE WE GO.
ALL RIGHT ...
LET'S GET HER UN-DRESSED.
PACHI (BLINK)
MM...
GABA (YANK)
WAH-HOOO...
EE...

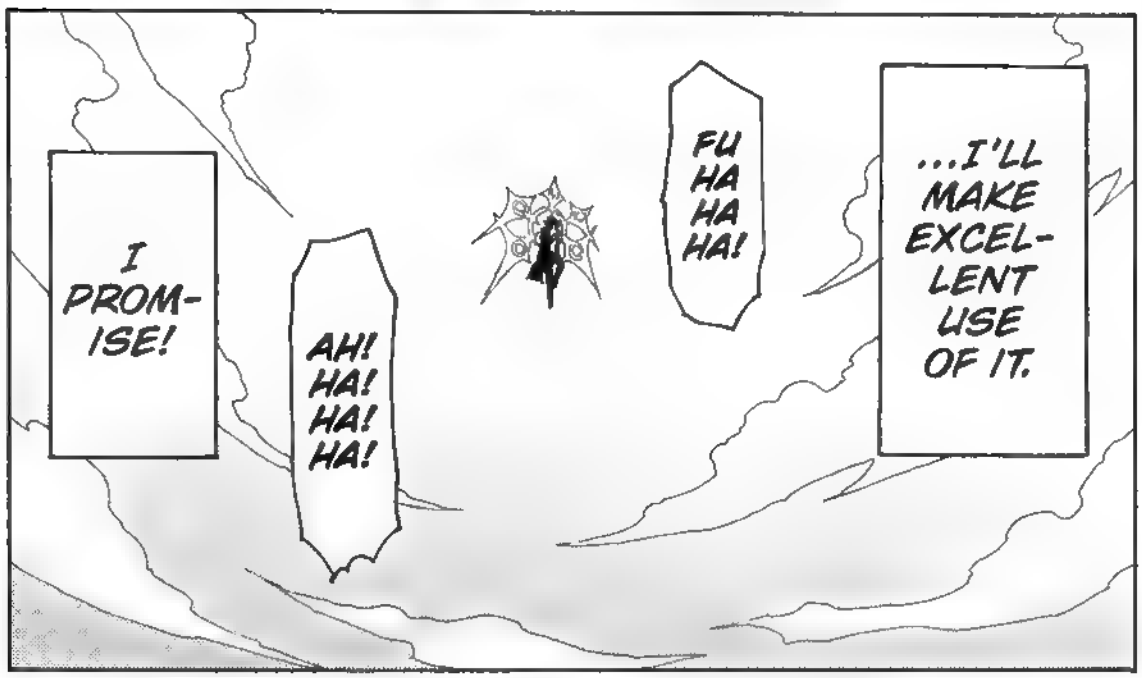
SFX: PURU (SHAKE) PURU
プル プル
STOP CRYING!
I'M SORRY ...
PLEASE... HELP ME...
JIRI (LEAN)
.....
STAY STILL!!
EEEEK!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING !?
B.T.R PRISON
HURRY UP AND GET IT OVER WITH, BRO!
I SAID HURRY UP AND DO IT!!
THIS IS A JOINT OPERATION BY YOUR TERRIBLE BROTHERS ...
YEAH, BEST COVER YOUR EYES...
.....
プシュッ
PUSHU (P.SHHT)
プシュッ
PUSHU
MY BROTHER'S THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO STRIP YOU.
WHAT?
JITO (GLARE)
WHA ...?
...IT IS DONE.
WELL, THAT WAS A LOT OF FUSS.
THEM'S JUST THE FACTS.
...DON'T MAKE IT SOUND LIKE I'M THAT SORT OF PERSON...
NOW, STAZ...

SERI-OUSLY?
...SO SHOW HER AROUND, WOULD YOU?
LIZ WOULD LIKE TO SEE A BIT MORE OF THE LOWER DEMON WORLD...
DO IT.
I'LL GO HOME AHEAD AND GET EVERYTHING READY FOR THE RESUR-RECTION.
WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY.
OH, THAT ...
DIDN'T I SAY? IT'S NO TROUBLE FOR ME TO EXTRACT THE MAGIC PROPERLY.
BROTH-ER.
SEE YOU SOON, STAZ.
WON'T THE SAMPLE OF FUYUMI'S MAGIC HAVE MINE MIXED UP IN IT?
JUST A SECOND HERE.

.....
BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WOULDN'T LET ME DO IT.
I'LL REMOVE YOUR MAGIC FROM THE SAMPLE.
DON'T WORRY.
MY BAD.
RIGHT ...
...YOU CAN CONTINUE BEING HER BLOOD BANK.
PASHI (CLUTCH)
UNTIL I BRING HER BACK TO LIFE...

PROMISES ARE FOR KEEPING, ARE THEY NOT?
SOOO (WHOOO)
AND I WILL KEEP MINE.

YOU THINK SO?
BROTHER... IS SO COOL...
WITH THAT OLD-TIMEY SATCHEL HE'S GOT?
IF YOU MAKE FUN OF BROTHER WITH WORDS I DON'T EVEN KNOW, I'LL SENTENCE YOU TO DEATH!
WHAT'S A CONVENIENCE STORE? WHAT'S A TURNOFF?
HE PROBABLY GOES TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE WITH THAT HAYSEEDY THING. WHAT A TURNOFF.
SFX: BERO (NYAH) BERO BERO BERO
OH, YES...
SHAKIIN (SHIING)
WHY, YOU!!
EEEEK! NOOO, LIZ-SAMA!
I CERTAINLY WILL TAKE IT OUT...
DOHYUN (WHIZ)
BTR PRISON

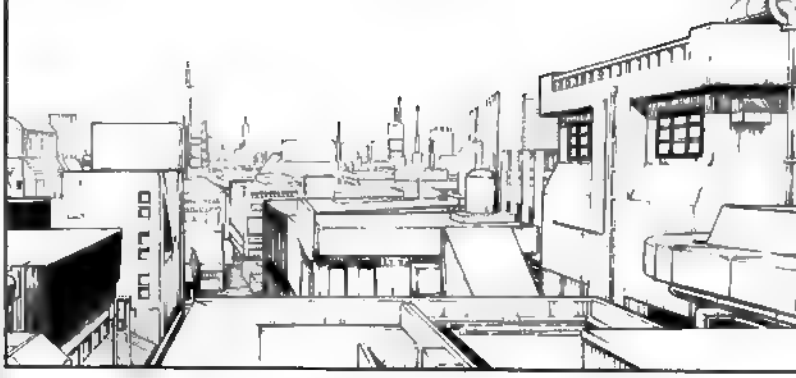


♠ To Be Continued ♠

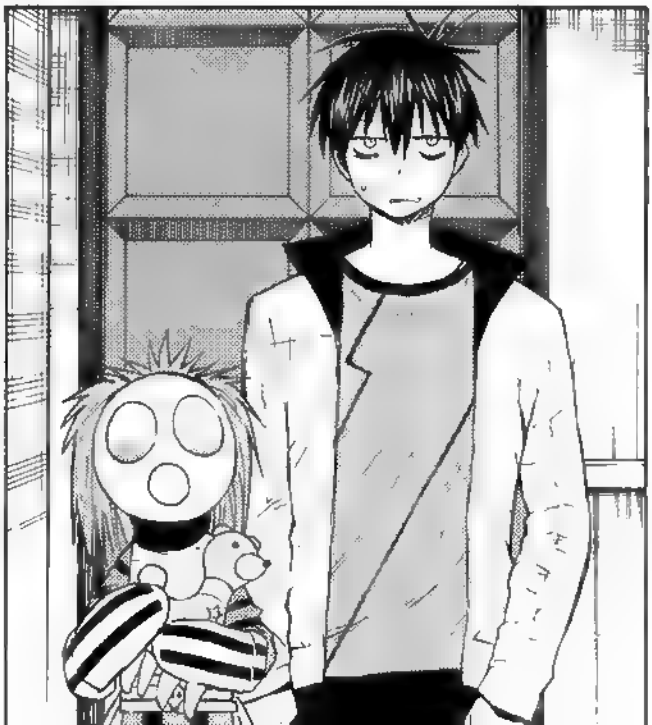
SO THE CULPRIT'S OBJECTIVE... NO, MY BLACK CURTAIN... AARGH! DANG IT!
BUT HE WAS ALREADY DONE IN BY SANTA CLAUS...
HMM... SO THE MAGIC THIEF WAS AKIM'S BASE...
MON
MON (MUMBLE)
SOWA
SOWA (FIDGET)

BLOOD LAD

CHAPTER 19 ♠ LIZ, FOR THE FIRST TIME

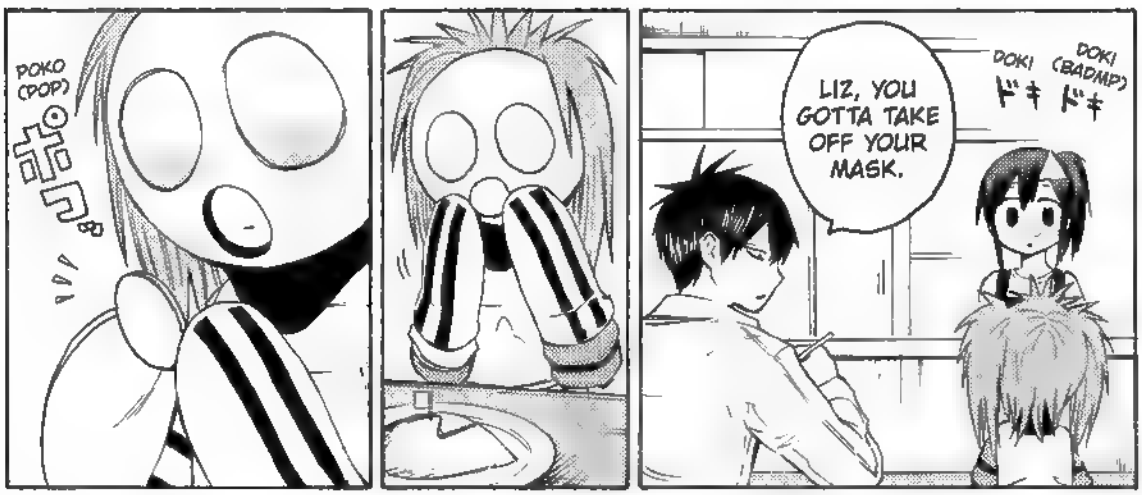


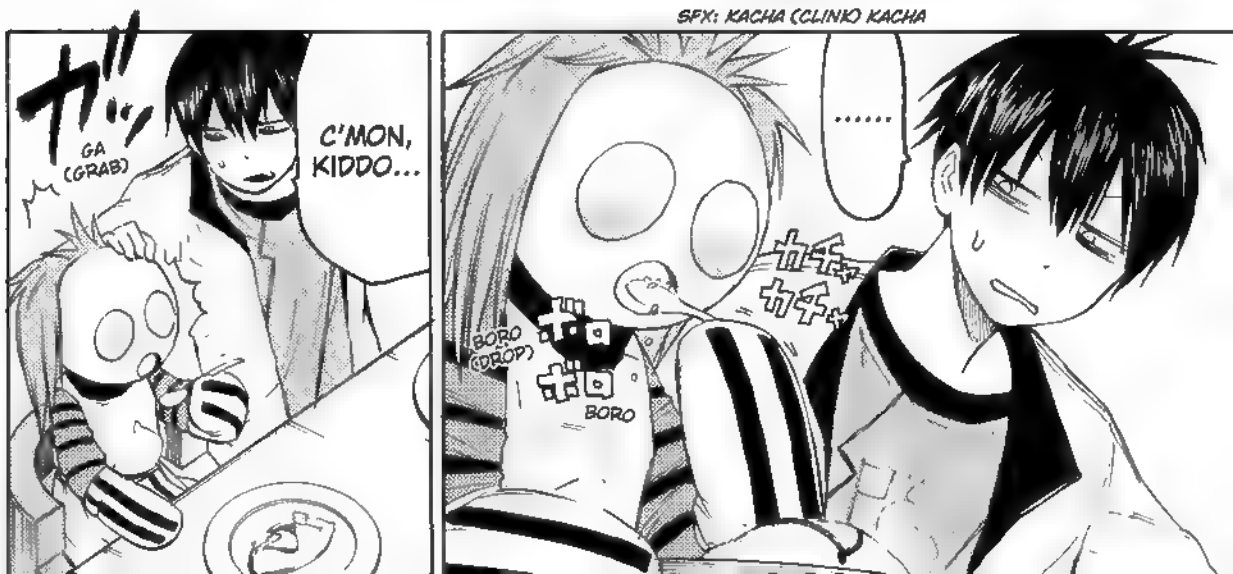
CHAPTER 19♠ LIZ, FOR THE FIRST TIME



ARE YOU FINISHED SIGHT-SEEING ALREADY?
YEAH, PRETTY MUCH.
OH, HEY.
IS THAT SO?
I DON'T REALLY CARE FOR IT.
WELL, GEE, THANKS FOR TAKIN' IT OFF MY HANDS.
フム (FWIP)
OH! YOU BOUGHT SOME-THING CUTE!!
JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM?
...IS THAT OKAY?
CAN YOU EAT IT?
FUYUM! MADE IT. IT'S A HUMAN WORLD DISH.
WANT SOME, BOSS?
WHAT'RE YOU EATING THERE? THAT LOOKS TASTY.
CHOKE SOME DOWN? JUST HOW BAD DO YOU THINK MY COOKING IS...?
THEN LET LIZ SEE IF SHE CAN CHOKE SOME DOWN TOO.
.....
OH. RIGHT.
BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE A MOM.
I DID THE COOKING EVERY DAY WHEN I WAS ALIVE!

EH-HEH-HEH. IT'S TSUCHINOKO-STYLE OMU-RICE.
IT KINDA LOOKS LIKE TSUCHI-NOKO.
NOTE: OMU-RICE IS A FRIED RICE OMELETTE, OFTEN TOPPED WITH KETCHUP-A POPULAR JAPANESE COMFORT FOOD.
...
MOGU (CHEW)
MOGU
MM.
THANKS ...
ジャーン
JAAN (TA-DAA)
HOKO
HOKO
HOKO (PUFF)
OOH.

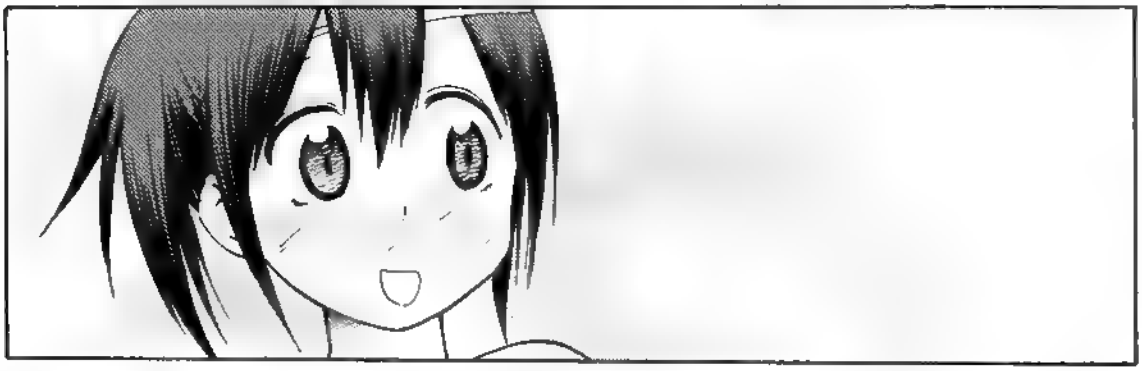

POKO (POP)
LIZ, YOU GOTTA TAKE OFF YOUR MASK.
DOKI
DOKI (BADUMP)


GA (GRAB)
C'MON, KIDDO...
SFX: KACHA (CLINK) KACHA
.....
BORO (DROP)
BORO

AW GEEZ, NOW WHAT?
GUSHI (RUB)
GUSHI
I AM NOT!
HOMESICK ALREADY?
YOU'RE CRYIN' LIKE A BABY.
GADO (POP)
JUST TAKE IT ALL THE WAY OFF.
!
GROW UP AND GET USED TO IT, KIDDO.
YEAH, WE DON'T HAVE PARENTS AT ALL ANYMORE.
...THAT'S NOT IT.
WHAT, WAS IT WHEN I SAID FUYUMI DOESN'T HAVE A MOM? I MADE YOU REMEMBER?
?

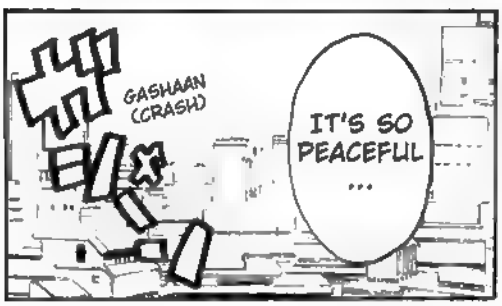
MM...
IT'S KINDA SWEET.
PAKU (CHOMP)
THIS IS...
...PRETTY AWKWARD...
I JUST WANT SOMEONE TO SAY IT'S GOOD! EVEN IF THEY'RE LYING!
BUT, YEAH... IT'S...
カチャ KACHA (CLINK)
TASTED LIKE SOMETHING YOU'D MAKE.
THAT'S ...
...AN AWFULLY VAGUE REVIEW ...
I SEE ...
IN A WORD, UNSOPHISTICATED.
カチャ KACHA
THANKS FOR THE GRUB.
UH... YOU'RE WELCOME...
HOW WAS IT?

.....
IT WAS YUMMY.
.....
BOSO (MUMBLE)



AHH...
SHUT UP! LEMME GO!
C'MON, I TOLD YOU TO TAKE THAT THING OFF!
DOTA (KICK)
BATA (FLAIL)
OHH...

...WHAT'RE YOU SO EXCITED ABOUT NOW?
WELL, IF YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE IT AGAIN, I'LL MAKE IT FOR YOU ANYTIME!
WAS IT?

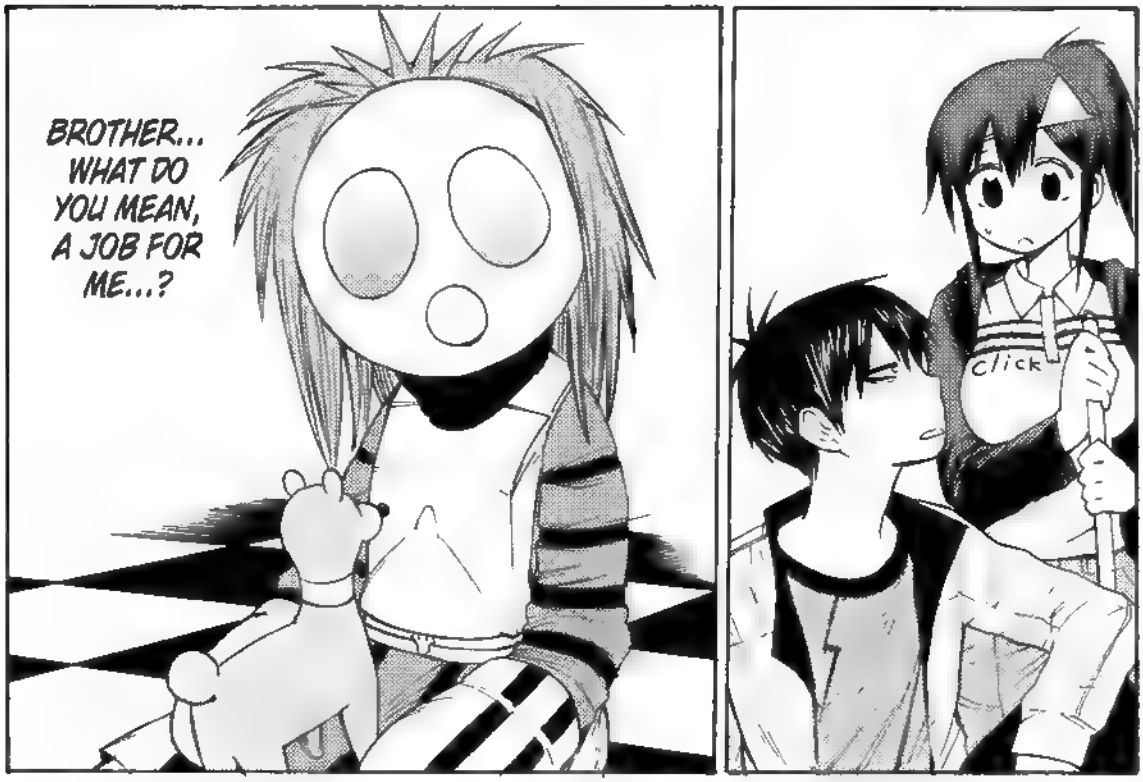

GASHAAN (CRASH)
IT'S SO PEACEFUL...

GAPO (POP)
HEY, WHY ARE YOU MAD?
BUT I WON'T MAKE ANY FOR YOU, STAZ-SAN.

...SINCE MY BROTHER RETURNED HOME.
ROUGHLY HALF A DAY HAS PASSED...
SO QUICK TO GET HOMESICK, LIZ-SAAAN?
LET'S TRY INTER-VIEWING HER.
I'M STAY-ING.
AND ALTHOUGH SHE HAS FINISHED "A BIT OF SIGHTSEEING," LIZ SHOWS NO SIGNS OF WISHING TO LEAVE.
HOW LONG SHOULD WE WAIT? WE JUST DON'T KNOW.
AND STILL WE HAVE NO WORD FROM HIM.
MAYBE I DON'T REALLY KNOW, BUT DOESN'T HE HAVE TO DO SOME RESEARCH FIRST AND THINGS LIKE THAT?
IT WOULDN'T BE TOO SURPRISING IF IT TAKES A LITTLE WHILE, I THINK...
WELL THEN, FUYUMI-SAN, HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE, IN YOUR OPINION?
ALL RIGHT, I GET IT...
NO.
IF YOU WANNA GO HOME, JUST GO ALREADY.
LET'S PLAY SPIES, LIZ.
NO.
TAKE THIS CELL PHONE BACK HOME AND KEEP ME UPDATED ABOUT THE PROGRESS BROTHER IS MAKING...
UM ...
Here

...HOW LONG WERE YOU THINKING IT WOULD TAKE, STAZ-SAN ...?
...DO YOU ACTUALLY MEAN THAT?
HUH ...?
MORE LIKE HALF AN HOUR...
...ABOUT A MONTH... MAYBE...?
...HMM... I GUESS, AT THE QUICKEST ...
PORO (DROP)
Click Hero

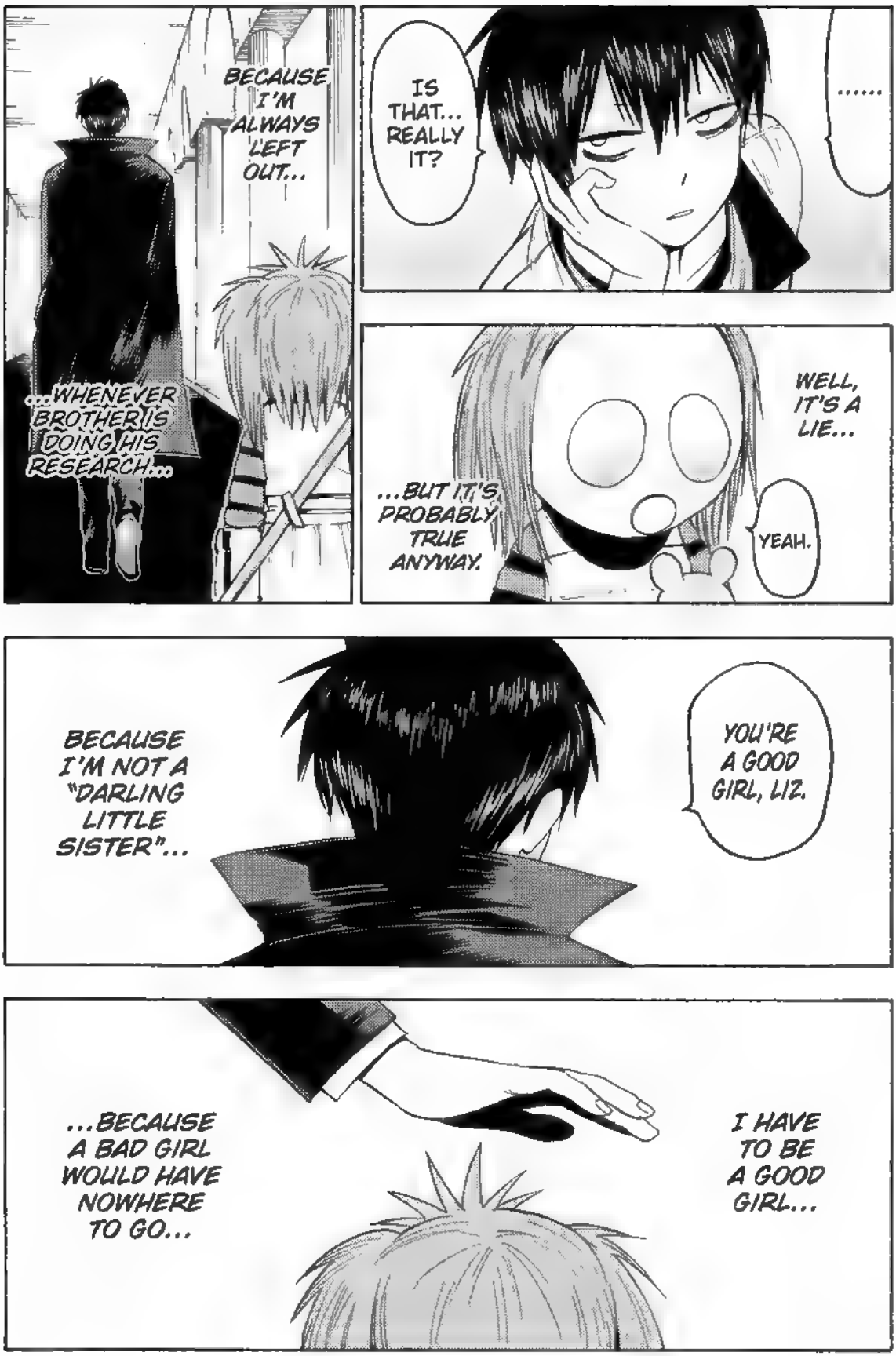
.....
... NEVER MIND...
HUH? YOU CAN MAKE A PIZZA THAT FAST?
YOU THOUGHT MAKING A NEW BODY FOR ME WOULD TAKE THE SAME AMOUNT OF TIME AS PIZZA DELIVERY?


BROTHER... WHAT DO YOU MEAN, A JOB FOR ME...?
Click

OFFICIALLY, YOUR OBJECTIVE IS TO APPREHEND FRANKEN AND AKIM, THE INSTIGATORS OF THIS UPROAR.
...NOW.
THAT'S RIGHT. WITH THAT, YOU CAN RETURN HOME TO THE ACROPOLIS WHENEVER YOU PLEASE.
THIS IS...AN ACROPOLIS TICKET?
I'VE ALREADY SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION FOR YOU STATING THAT AS YOUR PURPOSE.
PI (FWIP)
?
AND THEN, LIZ...THAT'S WHEN YOU BEGIN YOUR IMPORTANT TASK BEHIND THE SCENES.
GOKU (GULP)
STAY ON-SITE AFTER I LEAVE...
I'LL GO WITH YOU AS A CHAPERONE...
...AND I GET WHAT I NEED FROM STAZ, I'LL PROMPTLY LEAVE THE LOWER DEMON WORLD.
...BUT WHEN YOUR OFFICIAL WORK IS COMPLETED ...

...AND DON'T COME BACK HERE...
...UNTIL I SAY YOU CAN.
... HUH ...?
WHAT? BROTHER, THAT'S SO MEAN! WHY—
YOU ARE TO MONITOR STAZ.
AND I WILL BE HOLED UP IN MY LAB AGAIN.
YOUR DUTY IS TO KEEP WATCH AND MAKE SURE THAT STAZ DOESN'T DO ANYTHING TO GET IN MY WAY IN THE MEANTIME.
GAPO (POP)
.....
YOU CAN DO THAT, CAN'T YOU?

I'M NOT CRYING! AND I'M NOT GOING HOME!
I SAID, IF YOU WANNA GO HOME, THEN GO!
YOU'RE SUCH A PAIN...
OH, OKAY... NOW I'M STARTING TO GET IT.
ビクッ
BIKU (JUMP)
ARE YOU CRYING?
YOU'RE LOOKIN' ALL DROOPY AGAIN...
... LEAVE HER BE.
H-HEY, STAZ-SAN...
OH? IGNORING ME NOW? I NAILED IT, DIDN'T I?
フイッ
FUI (FWIP)
OUR BROTHER SAID SOME-THING TO YOU, HUH?
...NOT TO COME HOME FOR A WHILE BECAUSE I'D GET IN THE WAY OF HIS WORK...
...TOLD ME...
... BROTHER ...


BECAUSE I'M ALWAYS LEFT OUT...
...WHENEVER BROTHER IS DOING HIS RESEARCH...
IS THAT... REALLY IT?
.....
WELL, IT'S A LIE...
...BUT IT'S PROBABLY TRUE ANYWAY.
YEAH.
BECAUSE I'M NOT A "DARLING LITTLE SISTER"...
YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL, LIZ.
...BECAUSE A BAD GIRL WOULD HAVE NOWHERE TO GO...
I HAVE TO BE A GOOD GIRL...

YOU'RE A BAD GIRL, LIZ.
ポロ-ン
PON (PAT)
!
WHAT!?
TAKE A LOOK AT MY LIBRARY.
MANGA, ANIME, GAMES, AND OTHER STUFF ALL CRAMMED IN TOGETHER.
OKAY...WHY DON'T WE START WITH GHIBLI... TOTORO, MAYBE?
.....
OOH, I HAVEN'T WATCHED LAPUTA IN A WHILE ... ... THOUGH ...
AND IN MY STORAGE SPACE, THERE'S EVEN MORE!
ALL FOR YOU!!
A WHOLE WORLD OF ENTER-TAINMENT WAITING FOR YOU!
STAZ... WHY ARE YOU SUDDEN-LY...?
WELL, C'MON, YOU SHOULD'VE SAID SO TO START WITH...
...THAT YOU HAVE NOWHERE TO STAY, SO YOU'RE CRASHING WITH ME.

...NEGLECT EVERY-THING AND...
...LIVE IT UP...?
WE'RE BOTH BEING NEGLECTED BY OUR BIG BROTHER, RIGHT?
Click Here
SO WE CAN NEGLECT EVERYTHING TOO. TIME TO LIVE IT UP, KIDDO.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THAT'S WHAT...
...BAD KIDS DO.
AIN'T NOBODY HERE BUT BAD KIDS.
AND THE ONES WHO HAVE THE MOST FUN DOING WHATEVER THEY WANT, WHENEVER THEY WANT, ARE THE WINNERS.
GOT IT?

PACH (CLAP)
PACH
PACH
MAN.
YAY!
THE GOOD STUFF IS STILL GOOD NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU SEE IT.
GOKU (GULP)
ARE YOU SHIT-TING ME?
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN IT. BUT IT WAS REALLY GOOD!

HUH?
WHAT'D YA THINK, LIZ?
A HUNDRED TIMES BETTER THAN THE CRAPPY TV WE GET IN THE DEMON WORLD, RIGHT?
I WANNA WATCH IT AGAIN.
I WANNA WATCH THIS ONE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WATCH THE SAME THING AGAIN RIGHT AWAY... THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER CLASSICS...
IS SHE FOR REAL?
AH HA HA!
THE ONES WHO HAVE THE MOST FUN DOING WHATEVER THEY WANT ARE THE WINNERS ...
... RIGHT?
YEP... THAT'S HOW IT IS.
KASHU (PSHH?)
BEE
...I'M SEEING YOU IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT, THOUGH, STAZ-SAN.
HUH?

WHA...?
BUT YOU REALLY ARE A NICE PERSON.
WELL...
YOU'RE BEING SUCH A GOOD BIG BROTHER.
THAT'S SO CHEESY.
AH...
...AND WE'VE MADE IT THIS FAR.
...YOU SAID YOU WOULD BRING ME BACK TO LIFE...
YEAH, WELL, YOU'RE NOT ALIVE YET.
THANK YOU.

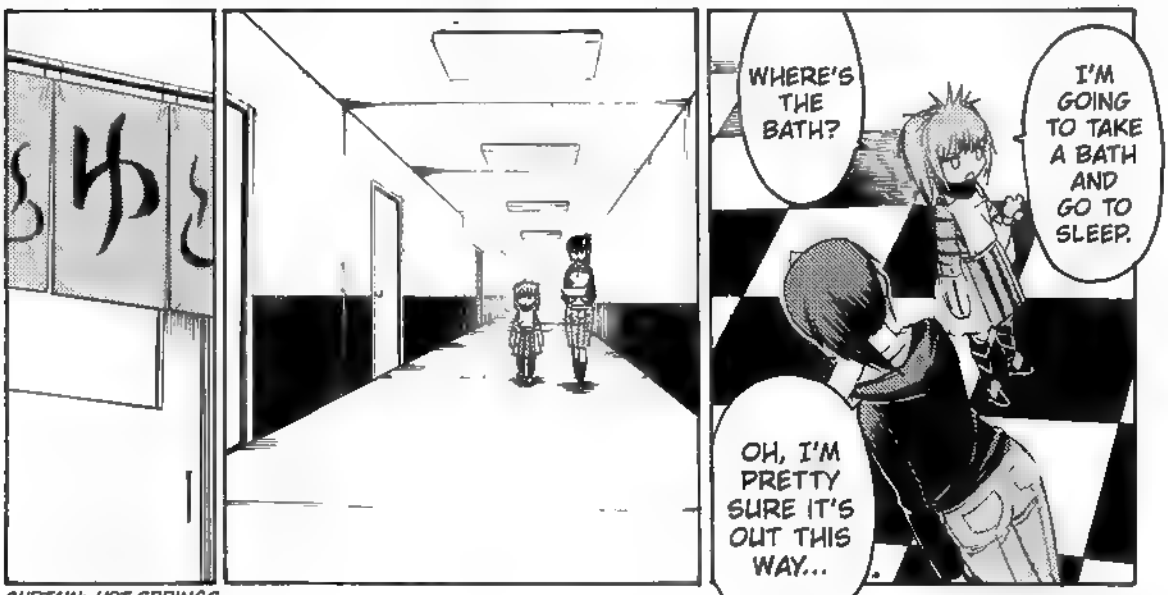
I'M NOT TOTALLY COMFORTABLE WITH JUST LEAVING IT TO MY BROTHER. THAT'S ONE THING, BUT...
ANYWAY, SOMETHING'S BOTHERING ME...
THAT'S NOT THE POINT.
KUSHA (CRUSH)
HE WAS TERRIBLY STRONG.
YOU'RE OVER-THINKING IT.
... FRANKLY SPEAKING ...
THE QUESTION IS, WHAT DID MY BROTHER GET OUT OF IT?
I'M THINKING MAYBE THIS DEAL...
...I'M NOT SO SURE IT'S AN EVEN TRADE FOR DEFEATING AKIM.

...IS JUST THE BEGIN-NING...
GO (RUMBLE)
GO
GO
GO
...OF MY BROTHER'S MASTER PLAN.
JUST KIDDING.
BE (NYAH)
I FORGOT ABOUT THIS. HERE.
WHAT'S THIS?
?
CHIRIN (JINGLE)
WELL.
... PLEASE... DON'T MAKE JOKES LIKE THAT.
I'M JUST SAYIN', DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN...
OH.
A BELL FROM BELL.
.....
WHAT IS IT?

OH, WAIT FOR ME!
GARA (RATTLE)
GARA
PISHA (SLAM)
.....
... HAAH.
IF YOU RING THE BELL THREE TIMES, BELL WILL COME.
MAN, I DUNNO. BELL JUST SAID TO GIVE IT TO YOU.
ANYWAY, DEK AND THE OTHER GUY SHOULD BE HERE SOON, SO I'M GOING INSIDE.
OOOO (WHOOO)
NII (GRIND

SHUT UP! YOU TAUGHT HIM THESE NASTY TRICKS, DIDN'T YOU!?
YEAH, HE PLAYS PRETTY DIRTY, RIGHT?
WHAT'S UP WITH THIS GUY, TREATING ALL MY HARD-WON PROPERTY LIKE THAT!?
AH! HA! HA! HA!
.....
GAH!

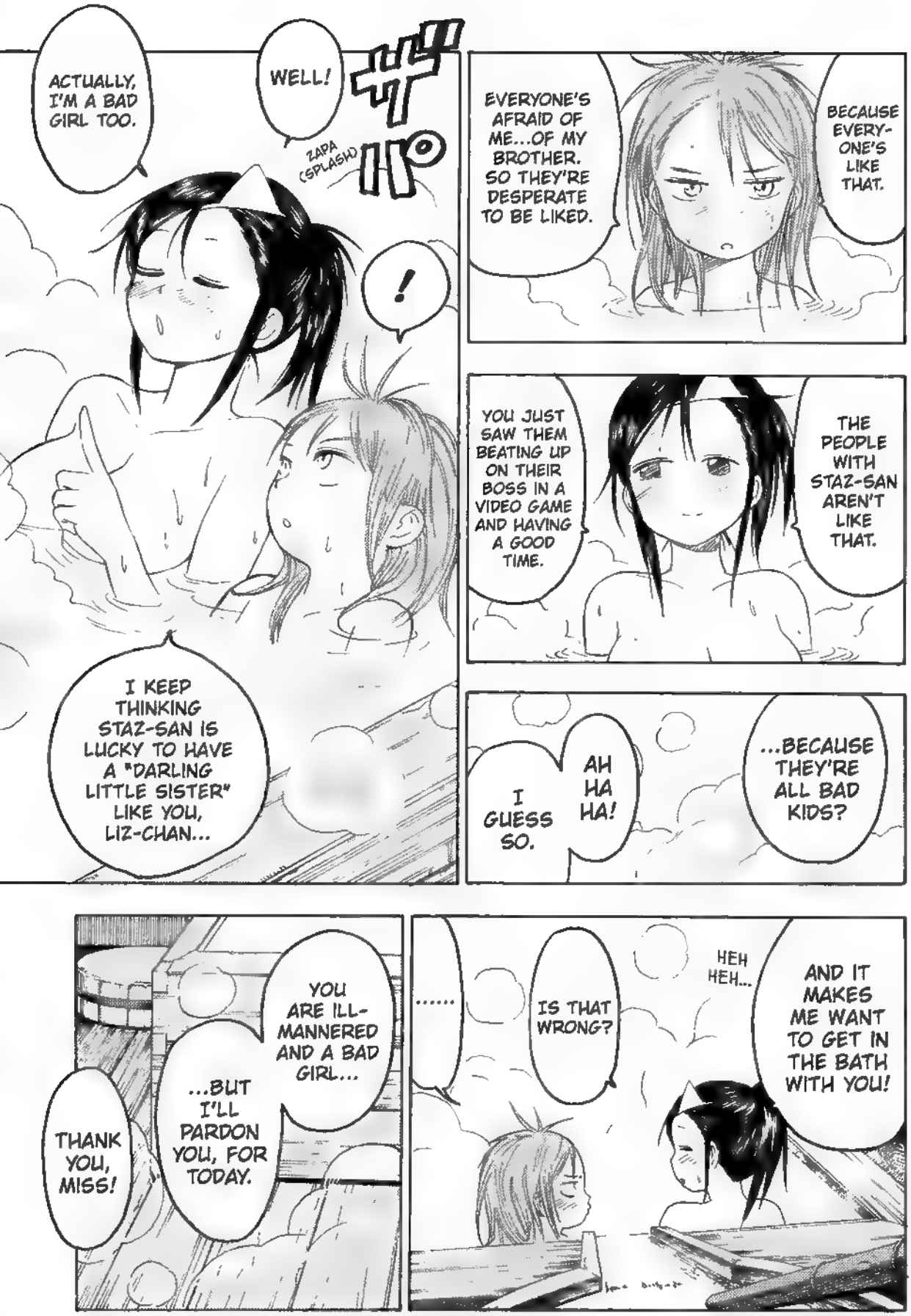
BOOK: MITTENS



CURTAIN: HOT SPRINGS

カポーン
KAROON (WHOOOCK)
YOU'RE GETTING IN WITH ME!?
HMM? WE'RE TAKING A BATH, AREN'T WE?
! WHY ARE YOU GETTING NAKED!?
W-WELL, YES...
IT'S SO JAPANESE!
.....
WHEN I FIRST CAME TO THE DEMON WORLD, IT SURPRISED ME TOO.
OH NO... THAT WASN'T WHAT I...
I CAN TAKE A BATH BY MYSELF, YOU KNOW!!
DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME!!
カコン
KAKON (CLOCK)
YOU NEVER TOOK BATHS WITH YOUR BROTHER?
WHA...
ARE YOU SHY?

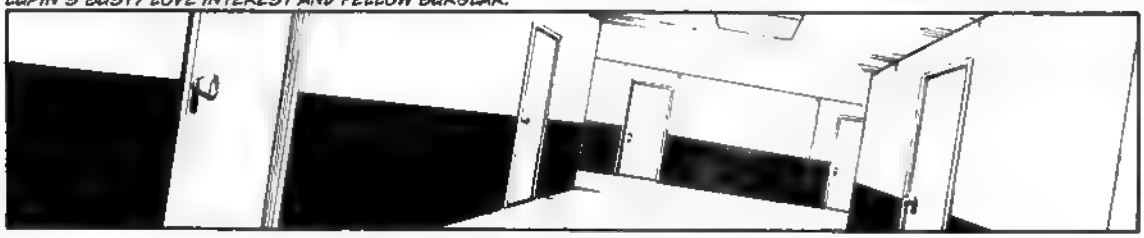
HERE WE GO. KEEP YOUR EYES CLOSED, OKAY?
I'M RINSING YOUR HAIR.
AND NOW I'LL WASH YOUR BACK.
OKAY ...
ZAPPAA (SPLOOSH)
SORRY ABOUT BEFORE ...
YOU REALLY HELPED ME OUT.
I DIDN'T THINK THAT THERE WOULDN'T BE A SHAMPOO HAT...
OH, THAT'S ALL RIGHT! IT'S NICE TO TAKE BATHS TOGETHER.
...ARE YOU TRYING TO GET ME TO LIKE YOU?
ARE YOU JUST TAKING CARE OF ME BECAUSE I'M A NOBLE AND I'M IMPORTANT?
.....
WHY WOULD YOU THINK THAT?

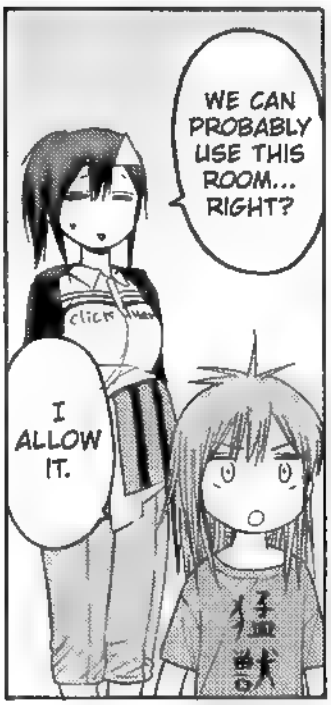

ACTUALLY, I'M A BAD GIRL TOO.
WELL!
ZAPA (SPLASH)
!
I KEEP THINKING STAZ-SAN IS LUCKY TO HAVE A "DARLING LITTLE SISTER" LIKE YOU, LIZ-CHAN...
EVERYONE'S AFRAID OF ME...OF MY BROTHER. SO THEY'RE DESPERATE TO BE LIKED.
BECAUSE EVERY-ONE'S LIKE THAT.
YOU JUST SAW THEM BEATING UP ON THEIR BOSS IN A VIDEO GAME AND HAVING A GOOD TIME.
THE PEOPLE WITH STAZ-SAN AREN'T LIKE THAT.
I GUESS SO.
AH HA HA!
...BECAUSE THEY'RE ALL BAD KIDS?
THANK YOU, MISS!
...BUT I'LL PARDON YOU, FOR TODAY.
YOU ARE ILL-MANNERED AND A BAD GIRL...
.....
IS THAT WRONG?
HEH HEH...
AND IT MAKES ME WANT TO GET IN THE BATH WITH YOU!

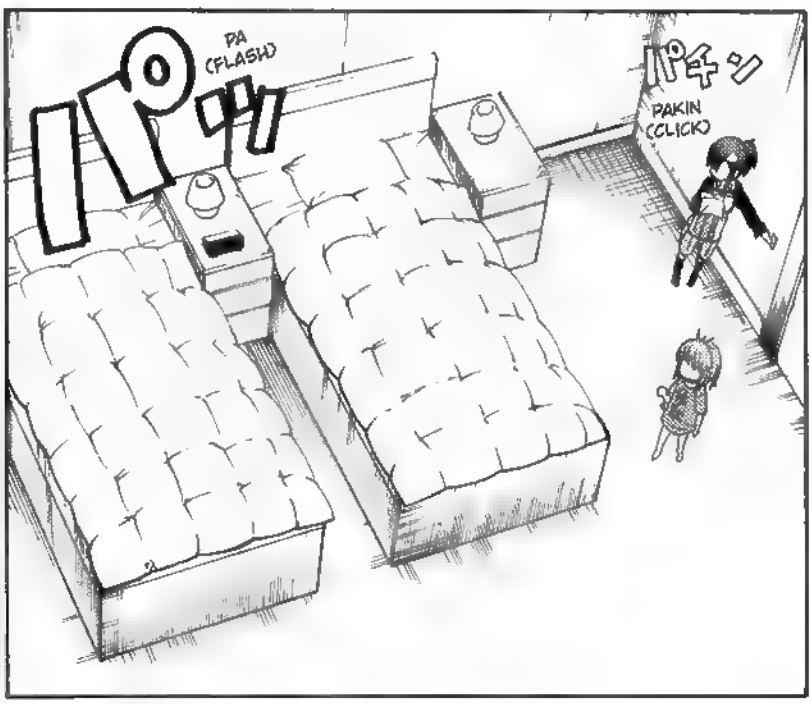
BUT MAYBE LUPIN'S VOICE WOULD REACH MY POOR EARS!
I CAN'T HEEEAR YOU...
BOSS, NO!! PLEASE, ANYTHING BUT THAT CARD!
SAY IT AIN'T SOOO, STAAAZ-CHAAAN!
MAYBE WE SHOULD LET THEM BE...
.....
BWA! HA! HA! YOUR INTO-NATION'S MORE LIKE FUJIKO!
YEAH.

NOTE: IN THE MANGA LUPIN THE THIRD, FUJIKO MINE IS LUPIN'S BUSTY LOVE INTEREST AND FELLOW BURGLAR.

SHIRT: WILD THING







I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TUCK IN NEXT TO SOMEONE LIKE THIS.
OH, IT'S ALL RIGHT, ISN'T IT? SINCE I'M ILL-MANNERED AND ALL.
THERE'S ANOTHER BED OVER THERE!
YOU'RE CREEPY!
Click Here
OKAY.
I'M GOING TO SLEEP NOW.
MWHA ...?
...YOUR CHEST IS TOO FAT. THERE'S NOT ENOUGH ROOM.
GOOD NIGHT.
PM 11:15
(FLASH)
BUT IT WAS FUN.
...REALLY QUITE A DAY.
THIS WAS...

THE FOOD YOU MADE... WAS YUMMY.
...I'LL MAKE IT AGAIN.
PAZU... IS SO COOL...
HE IS, ISN'T HE.
...YEAH.

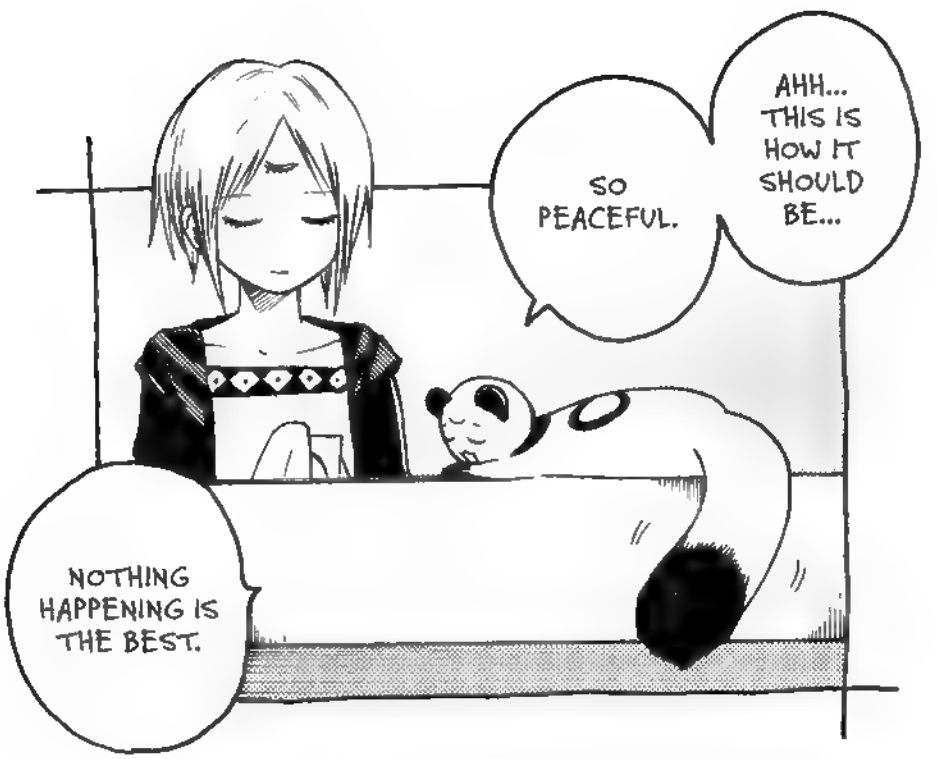
I'VE ALWAYS ...
...BEEN LONELY.
.....

WELL, IF YOU DON'T MIND ME, I'LL STAY WITH YOU.
BA (PWAP)
ZU
ZUU (ZAAAD)
SHURU (SHWP)

むくむく
MUKU MUKU (RISE)
バン
BAN (BANG)
STAZ!!

UH? UH-HUH ...
LOOK!!
READ IT!!
'S YOUR PROBLEM, LIZ?
WAKE UP!!
GA (WHACK)
GA
WAKE UP!!
HUH!?
SHE'S NOT HERE!!
...SO, WHERE'S FUYUMI ...?
SHE'S GONE!!
PLEASE DON'T LOOK FOR ME.
FUYUMI

♠ To Be Continued ♠


AHH... THIS IS HOW IT SHOULD BE...
SO PEACEFUL.
NOTHING HAPPENING IS THE BEST.

BLOOD LAD

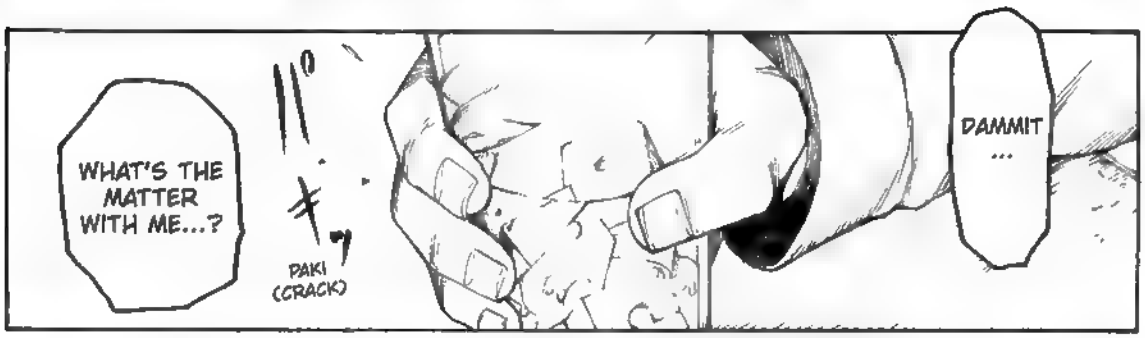
CHAPTER 20 ♠
THE GHOST THIEF AND THE GUARD DOG

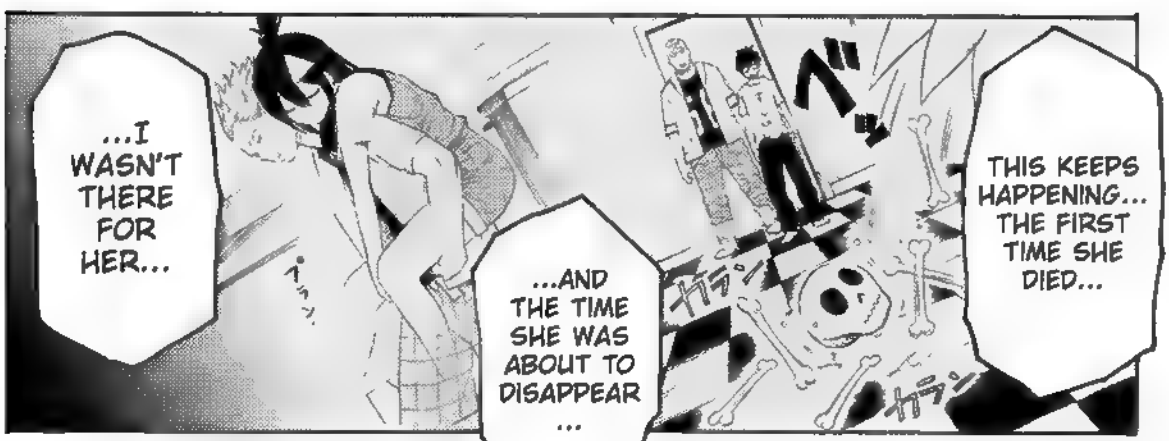
SIGN: CAFÉ & BAR THIRD EYE

WHADDAYA MEAN, "I GUESS NOT"!? DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!!
YEAH, AREN'T WE TALKING ABOUT THAT RIGHT NOW?
.....
...WELL, HERE I AM SIPPING GINGER ALE WITH NO FUYUMI.
WE RAN AROUND LOOKING FOR HER, BUT...
I GUESS NOT...
FUYUMI WOULDN'T JUST RUN OFF SOMEWHERE BY HERSELF ...
WHAT'S WITH THIS NOTE?
NO, WAIT A MINUTE... THIS CAN'T BE RIGHT...

FUYUMI ...
...DIDN'T GO ANY-WHERE ...
SHE WAS WITH ME THE WHOLE TIME.
I NEVER FELT HER GETTING OUT OF BED...
...AND I NEVER HEARD THE DOOR OPEN.
ALL THAT MEANS IS YOU DIDN'T NOTICE 'COS YOU WERE SLEEPING LIKE A LOG.
I DON'T SLEEP LIKE YOU.
AND BESIDES, FUYUMI ...
WELL, IF YOU DON'T MIND ME, I'LL STAY WITH YOU.
PON (PAT)
I KNOW.
.....

...SO THERE'S NO WAY SHE'D JUST UP AND GO, LEAVING NOTHING BUT THAT STUPID-SOUNDING NOTE...
SHE KNOWS THAT IF SHE DOESN'T DRINK MY BLOOD, HER BODY WILL DISAPPEAR...
THIS WAS DONE AGAINST FUYUMI'S WILL...
...OR ELSE ...
YEAH ...
THEN... THEN YOU'RE SAYIN' SOMEBODY KIDNAPPED HER...!?
... SHE'S ...
... ALREADY DEAD...


WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME...?
PAKI (CRACK)
DAMMIT ...


...I WASN'T THERE FOR HER...
...AND THE TIME SHE WAS ABOUT TO DISAPPEAR ...
THIS KEEPS HAPPENING... THE FIRST TIME SHE DIED...

BOSS ...
H-HE'S RIGHT! I MEAN, STUFF PRETTY MUCH ALWAYS IS YOUR FAULT, BUT DON'T YOU MAKE A PRINCIPLE OF NOT FEELING SORRY?
WHA... WHAT'S WRONG? THIS AIN'T LIKE YOU ...
DON'T BEAT YOURSELF UP OVER IT!!
I JUST GOT CAUGHT UP IN WHATEVER I WAS DOING...
...AND DIDN'T EVEN SPARE HER A THOUGHT...
WE DON'T KNOW THAT SHE'S TOTALLY DISAPPEARED, RIGHT!?
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT'S DEFINITELY ALREADY HAPPENED!
?
SO C'MON, TELL US TO DO SOMETHING CRAZY LIKE USUAL!

ALL OF YOU SPLIT UP AND SEARCH THE ENTIRE DEMON WORLD FOR FUYUMI!
...SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
PLEASE DON'T LOOK FOR ME. FUYUMI
AND THEN, WHEN WE FIND WHOEVER TOOK HER, IT'LL BE YOUR JOB TO SMACK 'EM AROUND!
...HEH.
YOU'RE A LITTLE OFF.
ALL OF YOU DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO FIND FUYUMI.
AND IF YOU DON'T FIND HER...
THIS IS HOW IT'LL GO.
SU (STAND)

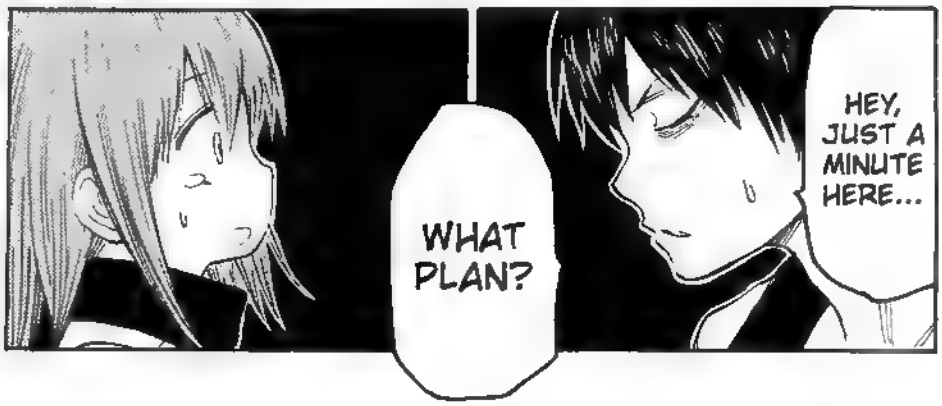
...I'LL GO CRAZY WITH RAGE AND USE EVERY DROP OF MY POWER...
...TO TAKE IT OUT ON THE ENTIRE DEMON WORLD.
MORE LIKE THAT.
ALL RIGHT, HERE WE GO!!
WE MAY NOT HAVE CLUES, BUT WE GOT HEART!!
...
GATA (CLATTER)
...WELL, THAT'D BE NO GOOD ...
WE BETTER FIND HER...
WAIT!!
HUH?
WHAT!?
.....

.....B... BROTHER WOULD...
...WOULD KNOW WHERE FUYUMI IS.
...THAT WENT "PSHHT!" AND TOOK HER MAGIC.
WHEN HE DID THE THING ...
WHEN!?
.....
...HE PUT...
...A TRANS-MITTER ON FUYUMI...
WHA ...!?
.....BECAUSE...
WHY THE HELL DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT...?

THAT BASTARD ...
DID HE KNOW... THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN ...?
BROTHER DID...
...HE SAID I ABSOLUTELY MUST NOT TELL YOU...
...BE-CAUSE ...

THAT'S NOT PART OF THE PLAN!!
BROTHER WOULDN'T DO THAT!!
! THEN IS HE THE ONE WHO TOOK FUYUMI ...!?

AH...


WHAT PLAN?
HEY, JUST A MINUTE HERE...

ゴゴゴ...
GOGON (DADUM)
KA (CLICK)
KATSUN (CLACK)
KATSUN
WELL ...
...DO YOU REMEMBER ME, I WONDER?
MR. FRANKEN.
... YEAH ...

!
OTHER-WISE KNOWN AS...
...THE VAMPIRE BRAZ D. BLOOD.
BUT ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF A SECOND TIME...
...I AM SANTA CLAUS.
I'M HON-ORED.

WHAT DO YOU WANT ...?
I'VE OBSERVED THE RESULTS OF YOUR EXPERIMENTS WITH GREAT INTEREST.
IT SEEMS YOU ENJOYED MY PRESENT. THAT'S WONDERFUL.
SO YOU ...

...GIVING YOU THAT PRESENT WAS A TEST OF SORTS.
NOW, WHERE SHALL I BEGIN...? FIRST ...
GOO (WHIRR)
...WELL, NO NEED TO RUSH. I'LL TELL YOU ON THE WAY.
PLEASE, COME WITH ME.
...WHETHER YOU COULD MEET MY EXPECTA-TIONS.
I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF INVESTIGAT-ING...
NOT AT ALL.
SO I MUST'VE FAILED THE TEST.
...AND HERE I AM IN PRISON.
BUT I DO HAVE REASONS FOR INVITING YOU IN THIS WAY...
GAA (SLIDE)
CHIN (DING)
YOU PASSED.

ガコーン
GAKOON (WHOOM)
ガコーン
GAKOON
THE FIRST BEING ...
PI (BEEP)
...THAT THIS IS A TOP-SECRET EXPERIMENT OF MINE, ABOUT WHICH EVEN THE AUTHORITIES REMAIN UNAWARE.
...IS BECAUSE THIS PRISON IS HIDING MY TOP-SECRET LAB.
PUSHUU (PSHHT)
A SEALED-OFF PLACE THAT CAN'T BE OBSERVED FROM THE OUTSIDE...
...WHICH ONLY LIZ AND I CAN ENTER AND LEAVE FREELY.
SO I COULD HARDLY MEET YOU IN PERSON, OUT IN PUBLIC, TO SPEAK ABOUT THIS.
...NOW...SINCE I'VE SAID THAT MUCH, I IMAGINE YOU'VE ALREADY FIGURED OUT WHAT'S COMING NEXT.
THIS IS MY LABORATORY.
AND THE SECOND REASON ...

OOOOO
(WHOOOO)

B·T·R
PRISON

AND I WOULD LIKE YOU TO WORK WITH ME.

PRECISELY ...

IF MY ANSWER IS NO, I'LL BE ON THE FAST TRACK TO A LIFE SENTENCE... THAT IT?

SO... THERE'S THE THIRD REASON I'M IN PRISON.

HMPH.

MIGHT I HAVE YOUR COOPERA-TION?

AND I WOULD LIKE YOU TO WORK WITH ME.
HMPH.
MIGHT I HAVE YOUR COOPERA-TION?

OOOOO
(WHOOOO)
B·T·R
PRISON
PRECISELY
...
IF MY ANSWER IS NO, I'LL BE ON THE FAST TRACK TO A LIFE SENTENCE... THAT IT?
SO... THERE'S THE THIRD REASON I'M IN PRISON.

I THOUGHT SOMETHING WAS FISHY...
AH-HA...
カラ～ン
KARAN (CLINK)
BASTARD... HE'S PROBABLY NOT EVEN WORKING ON THE RESURRECTION. HE'S JUST MESSING AROUND WITH FRANKEN!
YEAH...
SO BROTHER'S REAL GOAL WASN'T SUBDUING AKIM, BUT THE NEXT PART... ARRESTING FRANKEN.
WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHY HE PUT A TRANSMITTER ON HER, BUT THAT'S ALL WE HAVE TO WORK WITH NOW.
GOSO (RUMMAGE)
ゴソ～ゴソ
GOSO
ANYWAY, WE HAVE TO FIND FUYUMI.
YEAH, YEAH, I WON'T TELL HIM.
UM... BUT THIS...
...HAS TO BE A SECRET... OKAY?

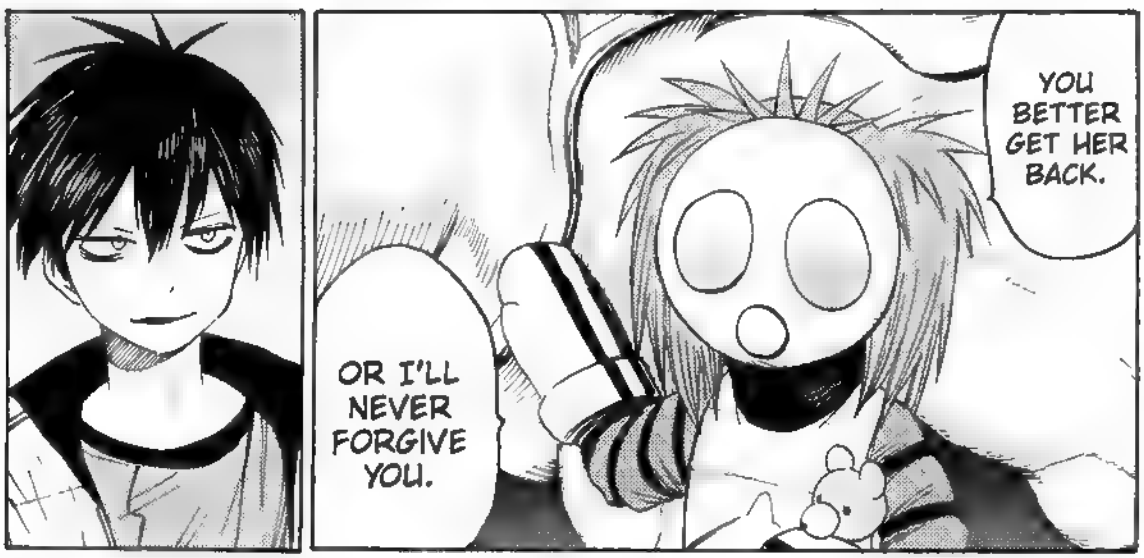
TIME TO PLAY SPIES, LIZ.
GO BACK TO THE ACROPOLIS AND FIND OUT WHERE FUYUMI IS, AND THEN CONTACT ME.
HUH ...!?
コト…
KOTO (THNK)
HERE.
?
I...I CAN'T... BROTHER TOLD ME NOT TO GO HOME...
SO? YOU JUST TOLD ME A BUNCH OF STUFF YOU WERE ABSOLUTELY NOT SUPPOSED TO TELL ME.
IT'S OKAY.
IF HE SAYS ANYTHING TO YOU...
...JUST TELL HIM I LOST IT WHEN FUYUMI WENT MISSING AND I THREATENED YOU.
GU (CLENCH)
I'LL... GIVE IT ALL TO YOU.

YOU CAN HAVE IT...!!
ALL THE MERCH FROM THE HUMAN WORLD I'VE COLLECTED..... ALL THE ANIME... AND MANGA... AND MOVIES... AND CDs AND FIGURES AND EVERYTHING... ALL OF IT...
...FIND FUYUMI ...
JUST...
.....
PLEASE, LIZ...

...GAVE ME SOME-THING...
YOU AL-READY...
.....
THIS GUY...
...IS ENOUGH.
...THAT'S ALL YOU WANT?
...YEAH.

FUYUMI IS A BAD GIRL.
ビリ
BIRI (RIP)
BUT SHE'S NICE TO BE AROUND, MORE OR LESS.
UH-HUH.
ピ
PI (FLICK)
I KNOW.
I'M NOT JUST DOING THIS FOR YOU.
DON'T GET ME WRONG.
ゴオオオオオオ
GOOOOOOO (WHOOOOSH)
ボオオ
BOO (FWOOSH)

WELL, HERE I GO.


YOU BETTER GET HER BACK.
OR I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU.

GOO (WHOOSH)

We got some intel, Boss.
A guy nobody around here knew was at a restaurant this morning.
<BIP!>
YEAH?

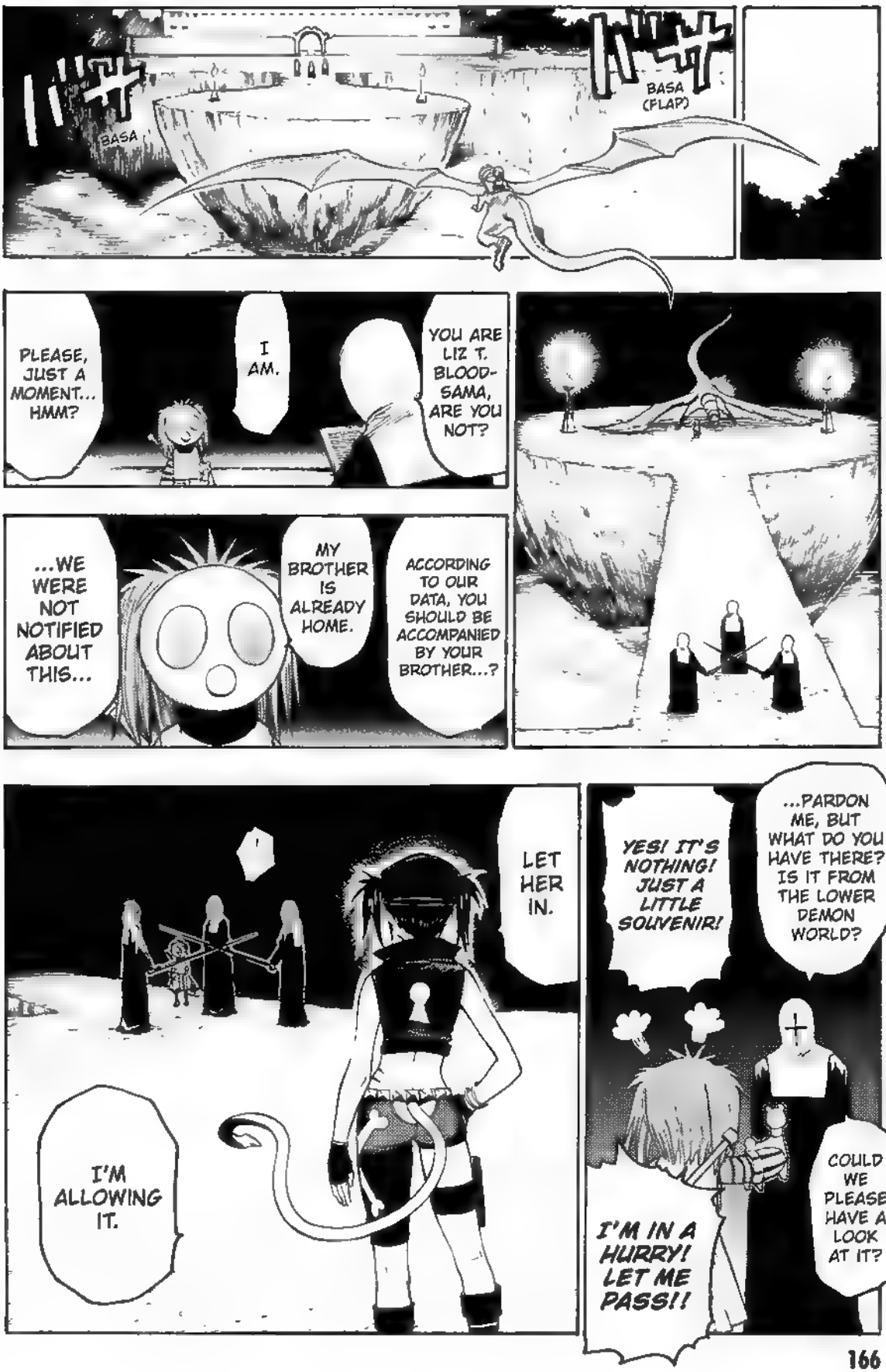
YOU'RE DOING A GOOD JOB OF BEING A BAD GIRL YOURSELF, LIZ.
RRRING!

What did he look like!?
JUST A SECOND. SATY-CHAN AND MAMEJIROU ARE DOIN' THE SEARCH EYE ON THAT SHOP RIGHT NOW...
...AND THEN YOSHIDA'S GONNA TRANSFORM INTO THE GUY FROM THE INTEL AND I'LL SEND YOU A PICTURE.
...Whoa. Not bad, guys.

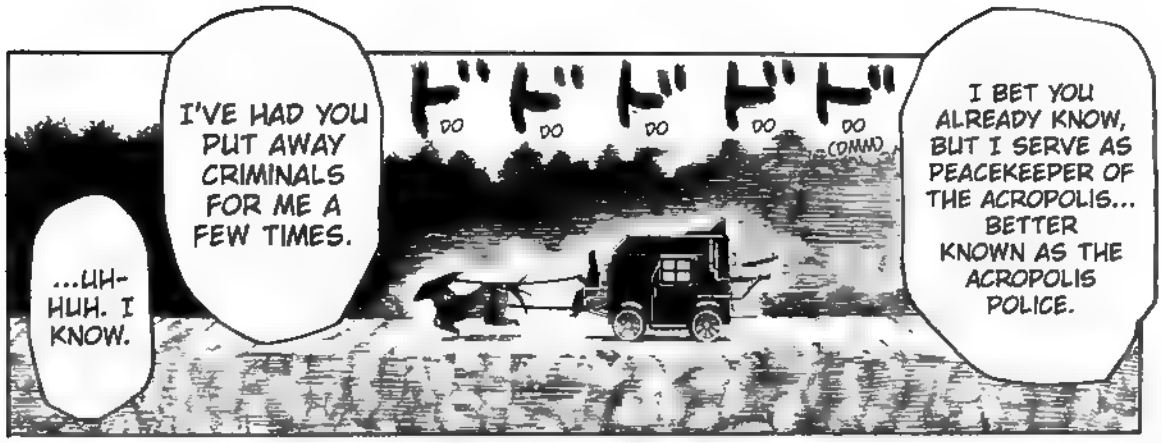
THAT'S HIM, BOSS.
PASHA (SNAP)
THAT TOTALLY LOOKS LIKE HIM.
ALL SET?
HMM. IT DOES FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN HIM SOMEWHERE, THOUGH...
WHO'S THAT? LOOKS LIKE THE KINDA GUY TO LISTEN TO BRITISH ROCK...
Seen him before?
SOUTH! HE WENT SOUTH! TO DEMON WORLD SOUTH!
UHH ...
Do you know where he went after that?
Which is it, Boss?
NAH, I MUST BE IMAGINING IT...
SOUTH, HUH...
YEAH, I HEARD IT. THANKS.
BIP!
Didja catch that?
WELL, IT'S DEFINITELY SUSPICIOUS.

ANY-WAY ...
...I CAN'T JUST STAND AROUND.
...BUT I CAN'T IGNORE INTEL FROM MY POSSE EITHER.
GU
GU (STRETCH)
NOT THAT I DON'T TRUST LIZ...
DAN (BAM)
GOOOO (WHOOOOSH)

I WON'T ...
ZU (ZUHO)
...LET ANYONE TAKE FUYUMI.
OOO (WHOO)
BLIA (VWOO)


BASA
BASA (FLAP)
PLEASE, JUST A MOMENT... HMM?
I AM.
YOU ARE LIZ T. BLOOD-SAMA, ARE YOU NOT?
...WE WERE NOT NOTIFIED ABOUT THIS...
MY BROTHER IS ALREADY HOME.
ACCORDING TO OUR DATA, YOU SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY YOUR BROTHER...?
LET HER IN.
I'M ALLOWING IT.
YES! IT'S NOTHING! JUST A LITTLE SOUVENIR!
...PARDON ME, BUT WHAT DO YOU HAVE THERE? IS IT FROM THE LOWER DEMON WORLD?
I'M IN A HURRY! LET ME PASS!!
COULD WE PLEASE HAVE A LOOK AT IT?

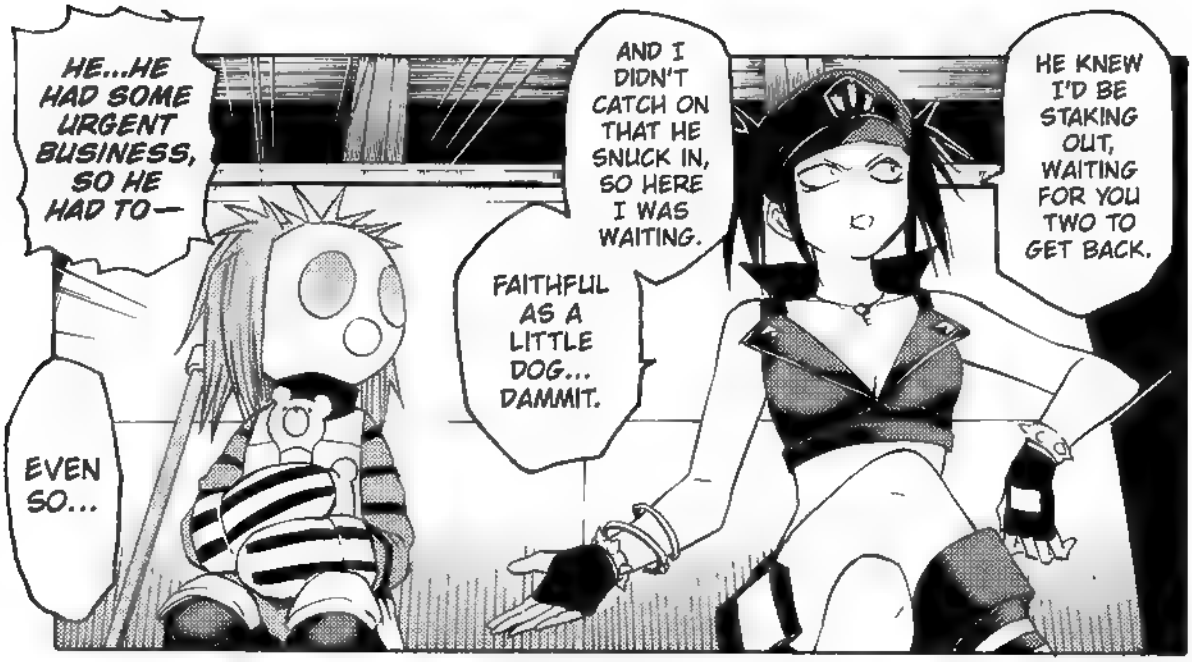
.....
BEROS-SAMA...
C'MON.
I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE PALACE.
PAAN (POP)
...YES, RIGHT AWAY.
GET MOV-ING!
AND, ER... BEROS-SAMA, YOU HAVE GUM ON YOUR FACE...
...OF COURSE. SHALL I MAKE THE ARRANGE-MENTS, THEN ...?
FUKI (WIPE)
FUKI
BATAN (SLAM)
WELL ...


I'VE HAD YOU PUT AWAY CRIMINALS FOR ME A FEW TIMES.
...UH-HUH. I KNOW.
DO DO DO DO DO (CHUG)
I BET YOU ALREADY KNOW, BUT I SERVE AS PEACEKEEPER OF THE ACROPOLIS... BETTER KNOWN AS THE ACROPOLIS POLICE.

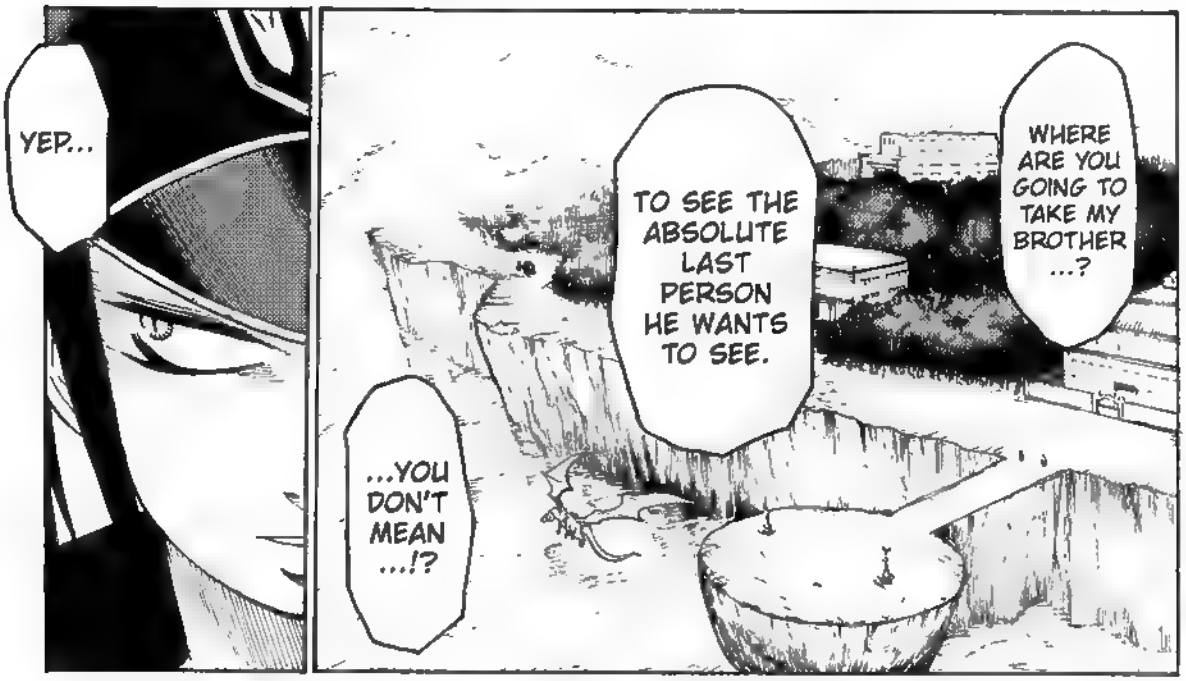
... NUH-UH.
SO, YOU GOT ANY IDEA WHY I'M HERE?

I GOT SOME BUSINESS WITH YOUR BROTHER.
PUKUU (PUSHHH)
HE'S KEPT ME WAITING A LONG-ASS TIME.

.....
I'M SERIOUSLY ABOUT TO LOSE MY SHIT.
YEAH. SO HE DID. BASTARD'S BEEN IGNORING ME.
BUT BROTHER WENT HOME ALREADY...
.....


HE...HE HAD SOME URGENT BUSINESS, SO HE HAD TO—
EVEN SO...
FAITHFUL AS A LITTLE DOG... DAMMIT.
AND I DIDN'T CATCH ON THAT HE SNUCK IN, SO HERE I WAS WAITING.
HE KNEW I'D BE STAKING OUT, WAITING FOR YOU TWO TO GET BACK.

.....
...I APPRE-CIATE THAT.
WELL, THANKS TO YOU, NOW I GOT AN OFFICIAL EXCUSE TO USE MY "SPECIAL DISPENSATION" AND HAUL HIM IN...
COMING AND GOING WITHOUT SENDING WORD... THAT'S A CRIME IN ITSELF.


YEP...
...YOU DON'T MEAN ...!?
TO SEE THE ABSOLUTE LAST PERSON HE WANTS TO SEE.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE MY BROTHER ...?

TO THE KING OF DEMON WORLD ACROPOLIS ...

...WOLF DADDY...

.....

...BUT WHY...

...WHY TO THAT JERK ...!?

HEY, WATCH YOUR MOUTH.

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO TO MY BROTH-ER!?

SORRY, BUT I CAN'T TELL YOU THAT.

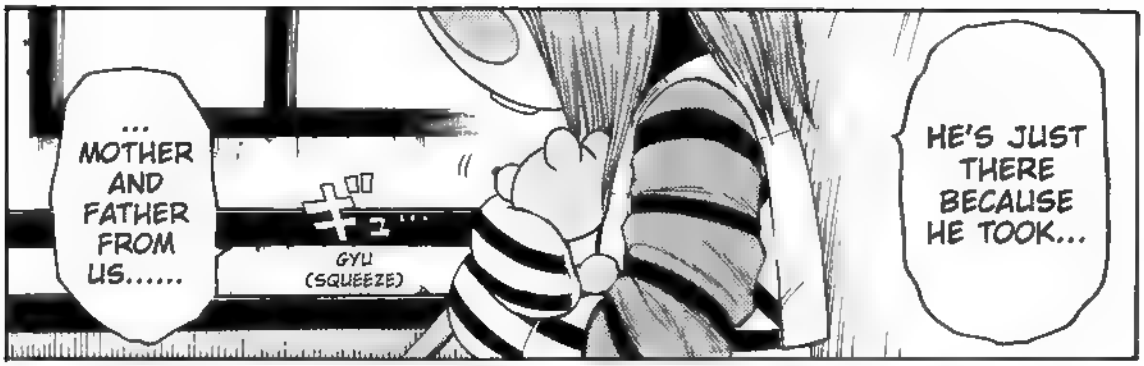
IT'S TOP SECRET.

THAT JERK ...

...IS NO KING...

TO THE KING OF DEMON WORLD ACROPOLIS ...

...
...BUT WHY...
HEY, WATCH YOUR MOUTH.
...WHY TO THAT JERK ...!?
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO TO MY BROTH-ERI?
SORRY, BUT I CAN'T TELL YOU THAT.
IT'S TOP SECRET.
THAT JERK ...
...IS NO KING...
... WOLF DADDY ...

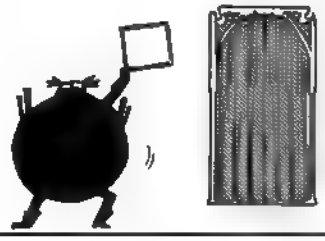


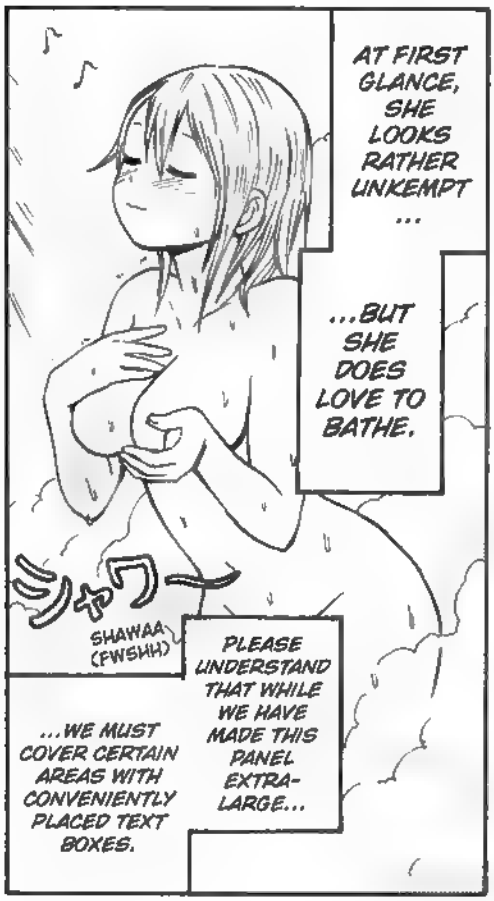
♠ To Be Continued ♠

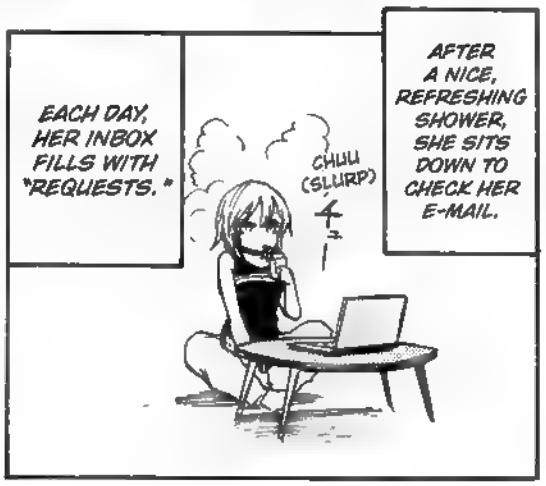
BLOOD LAD

LIVING IN THE DEMON WORLD

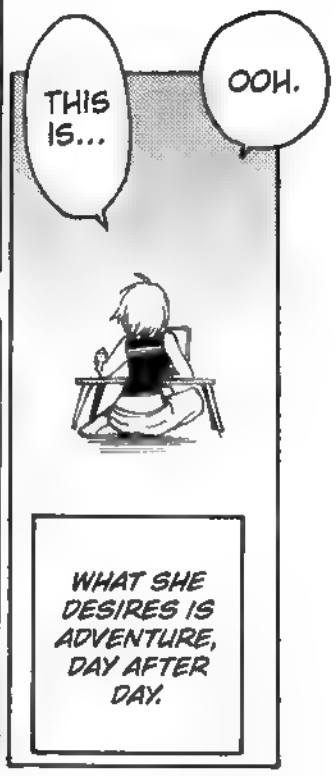
BELL'S EVERYDAY LIFE




AT FIRST GLANCE, SHE LOOKS RATHER UNKEMPT ...
...BUT SHE DOES LOVE TO BATHE.
シャワー
SHAWAA (FWSHH)
PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT WHILE WE HAVE MADE THIS PANEL EXTRA-LARGE...
...WE MUST COVER CERTAIN AREAS WITH CONVENIENTLY PLACED TEXT BOXES.



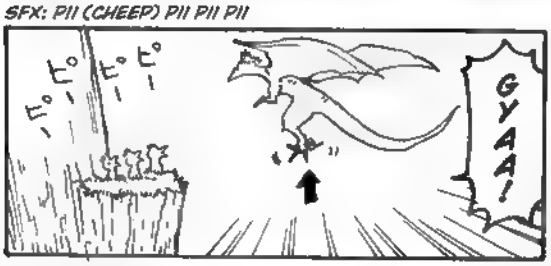
DOOON (DUMMM)
ドオォン


OOH.
THIS IS...
WHAT SHE DESIRES IS ADVENTURE, DAY AFTER DAY.

SFX: GYAA (SCREE) GYAA
GOOO (ROAR)
SURE AM GLAD I CAME! ♡
DIDN'T KNOW THERE WERE MOUNTAINS LIKE THIS IN THE DEMON WORLD!
BEING ABLE TO GO ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD WITH NO TROUBLE AT ALL MUST BE WONDERFUL.

WOO-HOO!

...AND THE SENSE OF ACCOMPLISH-MENT UPON ARRIVAL.
HOH!
TO (HOP)
SHE KNOWS, HOWEVER, THAT IT COMES AT A PRICE: USING MAGIC ELIMINATES THE EXPERIENCE OF A JOURNEY...


SFX: PII (CHEEP) PII PII PII
ピ
ピ
ピ
GYAA!

GYAA
GYAA
SHOO! SHOO!

AHHH!
SO SHE NEVER ACCEPTS A JOB WHERE THE DESIGNAT-ED TARGET CAN BE FETCHED SIMPLY BY GOING TO A GIVEN LOCATION.
GOOD
ゴオォ

...AND AT LONG LAST HOLD THE OBJECT IN HER HANDS...
TO STRUG-GLE...
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
NEVER SHOULDA COME...

...SMELLS REALLY GOOD...
HUH? SOMETHING...
BUSHU (BSHHT)
OOH!?
THESE FLOWERS AREN'T EVEN WORTH IT...
...AN EXPERIENCE ONE CAN HAVE NOWHERE ELSE...
OOH...
BUSHU
OOH, NOW IT'S STEAK...
BUSHU
SMELLS LIKE CURRY...
THANK YOU!
NO PROBLEM...
THIS IS DEFINITELY IT! THE FLOWER THAT GIVES OFF THE SCENTS OF FOUR-STAR GOURMET CUISINE!
OOH!
DOSA (WHUMP)
SFX: GURURU (GROWL) GUGYURURU
...MORE THAN ANYTHING, THESE FEELINGS...
NOW IT'S LANGOUSTINES FARCIES À LA RATATOUILLE!
...ARE THE TREASURE TO HER.
GOOD FOR A DIET, I GUESS.
WELL, SMELLING IT DOESN'T EXACTLY FILL ONE'S STOMACH...
AND THEN...
GA
GA (SCARF)
GA
...SHE MAKES SURE TO EAT WELL.
ANOTHER COURSE!
...YOU'RE A BOTTOMLESS PIT...

BLOOD LAD 3

These images appeared under the jackets of the original editions of *Blood Lad*!

4

BLOOD LAD 4

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